

January 7, 2008
Regular Council Meeting
6:00 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman G. Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting, were mailed to Council members and local news media, January 3 2008.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer H. Willis

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of January 7, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Jennifer Willis was called upon for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for Public Forum and called upon the Clerk to announce those citizens who signed up to address Council.

Al Wilson - Mr. Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Aeronautics Commission, came before council to update them regarding progress of the Airport Terminal. Mr. Wilson stated he would expect the final drawings to be available by late January and for bids to go out in March. Mr. Wilson stated he would speak with staff about a convenient time for Council to give a final approval. Bid packets would then be expected to go out in February or March.

Joe Lauerman - Mr. Lauerman came before Council to request assistance with the issue of the City of Clemson refusing to pay a fair and equitable amount for a sewer line that is going across their property. Mr. Lauerman stated the City has now passed imminent domain. Mr. Lauerman stated he did not know where else to go because he is a Pickens County resident due to the fact he does not reside within the Clemson City limits.

Junius Smith - Mr. Smith came before Council to discuss the recent election for the Advisory Fire District election at Six Mile. Mr. Smith stated he would advise the entire election be denied and that no one be appointed due to the inconsistencies within this election. Mr. Smith stated there were numbered ballots that did not match up in the end. Mr. Smith stated there were at least 4 or more ballots that were unaccounted for, as

many people were not allowed to vote because there was not room in the building for everyone to get in out of the cold. Mr. Smith stated he did not think the election was fair.

F.M. Caddell - Mr. Caddell, a member of the Six Mile Fire District Board, stated he has never been welcome on the Board of Directors. Mr. Caddell alleged he felt this was due to the fact that he had discovered discrepancies in the budget. Mr. Caddell also informed Council that he agreed with the comments made by Mr. Junius Smith. Mr. Caddell concluded by stating he has been threatened by members of this district and he would take out a warrant if there were further threats.

Tom Cloer - Mr. Cloer, with the City of Central Recreation Department stated he was representing the Recreation departments of the County regarding the recent information they had received about funding for recreation. Mr. Cloer stated the majority of the departments rely heavily on the county's funding for parks, lighting, facilities and registration fees for many indigent children. Mr. Cloer asked Council if they could meet with recreation directors in order to further discuss.

>>>>Chairman Smith Stated that the funding was not abolished, but the funding had been discussed to be disbursed in different ways.

Weldon Clark - Mr. Clark stated much work is to be accomplished on the Development Standards Ordinance such as homeowners not being able to rebuild at the same level, and rules relating to a shooting range. Mr. Clark concluded by stating the elections for fire districts should perhaps be done at regular voting precincts during general elections.

Dan Ward - Mr. Ward stated he was a citizen that had been involved in lawsuits due to flood maps and flood prone areas. Mr. Ward stated he was coming to Council because he knows of the new FEMA Maps, which takes his property out of the flood plain, but wanted to caution council about the implications these FEMA maps can have on property owners. Mr. Ward further stated he was looking forward to developing his property after 13 years.

Liz Myers - Ms. Myers, Chairman of the Pumpkintown Fire District requested that Council allow the Pumpkintown Fire District to take \$1,200 from their reserve for a matching grant they received from a Forestry grant. This grant was for the purchase of hose extensions, nozzles, and adapters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of December 17, 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Committee of the whole – Chairman Smith gave the following report:

The Committee of the whole held a work session in the Main Conference room on December 17, 2007 with Chairman Smith presiding and all Council Members in attendance.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
 Chris Brink, Planning Director
 Dr. Stone, Planning Commission Chairman

1. Development Standard Ordinance-

Council was provided revisions for various parts of the Development Standards Ordinance.

Council will receive the entire revised ordinance by the end of January and hold another work session in February.

- Public Service Committee - Committee Chairman Ponder gave the following report:

The Committee of Public Service met on December 17, 2007, following the work session of Council. Committee Chairman Ponder presided and all members were in attendance.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
 Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
 Bo Beauchemin

Item	Description	Referred	Committee Action
26	Paving list	04/23/07 08/20/07	>Committee recommends approval of the paving list. All members were in favor with the exception of Jennifer Willis who opposed. Council approved the recommendation of the committee. Jennifer Willis opposed and stated while she did believe the efforts have improved to begin a road inventory and a resurfacing program, she stated the municipalities are not getting a fair share. James London also stated the program was a good beginning, but wanted to see more stats on highly traveled roads and other issues as brought up in the committee meeting. >>All Council voted in favor with the exception of Jennifer Willis who opposed.
34	Request to assist citizens in the Keowee Outer Banks subdivision with grant administration for fire hydrants	11/05/07	>No action, committee was informed that grants were not administered for this purpose.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst informed Council of the following issues.

1. Mobile Home Amnesty Program – Mr. Hurst stated the Mobile home program was a success and the EPA has asked permission to copy our program. Mr. Hurst also stated other counties have introduced this program but have added personnel and equipment, as where Pickens County has done this without added expense.

2. CDBG Grant. Mr. Hurst stated the County has been awarded \$986,364 for the QuickJobs Development Center. This grant is contingent upon Tri-County Technical College deeding the property to Pickens County.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith stated there is a lot of media coverage regarding the FCC ruling as it relates to the transition from analog television to digital. Mr. Smith asked staff to do some research on how to serve Pickens County citizens with issues such as coupons for converter boxes, and try to communicate over-all facts regarding this transition. Mr. Smith stated he did not want a population of citizens to not have television and to miss out on some of the offers that are being discussed.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pumpkintown Request. Ben Trotter moved to add to the agenda for action the request as stated by Mrs. Myers for the \$1,200 match for Pumpkintown Fire District. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Committee referral. Tom Ponder moved to place in committee the issue of recreation funding. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Item was placed in the Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning.
3. Addition to executive session- Ben Trotter moved to add to the executive session a contractual issue. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
4. Addition to Boards and Commissions- James London moved to add to the agenda a re-appointment. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes first reading of an ordinance for Flood Damage Prevention.

APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR PROCESSING EXPENSES FOR LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the \$33,384.00 from contingency for the expense to program the computer system for the tax reform laws. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

>>>Council did state for the record this is an expense that can not be eliminated, is in the same category as unfunded mandates.

Pumpkintown Request.

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the \$1,200 for the Pumpkintown reserve to match their forestry grant. With it being stated that funds were available, motion passed with a unanimous vote.

>>>Councilman Trotter did caution fire district to make sure of reserve funds when applying for grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Ben Trotter moved to convene in executive session for the stated purposes; motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Boards and Commissions:

- Central Fire District
- Dacusville Fire District
- Easley Fire District
- Holly Springs Fire District
- Liberty Fire District
- Pumpkintown Fire District
- Rocky Bottom Fire District
- Six Mile Fire District
- Vineyards Fire District

Personnel Issue
 Contractual Issue
 Board and Commissions re-appointment

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back into order and allowed the following motions.

- **Jennifer Willis moved to approve the fire district appointments as presented. Motion was seconded by James London.**

Chairman Smith stated that he realized there have been some questions regarding elections and appointments. Chairman Smith stated council would continue to look at issues, however, for the present the motion is to accept the recommendation as presented.

- Motion to accept the nominations passed with all voting in the affirmative with the exception of Ben Trotter who opposed.

Fire District Boards and Commissions

Central requests the **re-appointment** of George Reid.
 George Reid
 906 Maw Bridge Road
 Central, SC 29630

Dacusville requests the **re-appointment** of Don Holloway and Peggy James.
 Don Holloway Peggy James
 521 Holloway Rd. 123 Windy Hill Lane
 Marietta, SC 29661 Easley, SC 29640

Easley requests the **re-appointment** of Billy Grant.. (Easley will have another appointment later in the year to fill a vacancy)
 Billy Grant
 118 Mark Ave.
 Easley, SC 29640

Holly Springs requests the **re-appointment** of Mitchell Cassell and Austin Cater.

Mitchell Cassell	Austin Cater
6687 Highway 11	221 Phoenix Rd.
Sunset, SC 29685	Pickens, SC 29671

Liberty request the new appointments of Keith Culbreath and Timothy Black (taking the place of Brian Finley and Raymond Kuhne)

Keith Culbreath	Timothy Black
118 Holder Street	114 Hunter Mill Road
Liberty SC 29657	Liberty SC 29657

Pumpkintown request the re-appointment of Gaston James and Dan Evette.

Gaston James	Dan Evette
1581 Midway Road	2429 Pumpkintown Hwy
Pickens, SC 29671	Pickens SC 29671

Rocky Bottom requests the **re-appointment** of John Sarpy and the **new appointment** of Frank Masters and Jimmy Masters (Jimmy and Frank Masters will replace Dave Fishburne, and Bobby Camp)

Jimmy Masters	Frank Masters	John Sarpy
435 Rocky Bottom Rd.	422 Moorefield Hwy	304 Moorefield Memorial. Hwy
Sunset, SC 29685	Sunset, SC 29685	Sunset, SC 29685

Six Mile requests the **new appointment** of Scott McCall (Mr. McCall will replace Mrs. Clardy)

Scott McCall
Mann Road
Six Mile, SC 29682

Vineyards requests the **re-appointments** of Jim Miller and Chuck Schultz

Jim Miller	Chuck Schultz
124 Silver Bell Lane	122 Sundrop Ct.
Sunset, SC 29685	Sunset, SC 29682

Mr. Smith stated no motion were forthcoming relating to personnel, the contractual issue or the re-appointment.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman