

March 3, 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, February 27, 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

Absent: Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of March 3, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by James London.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the public forum and called upon Mr. Hurst to announce the citizens who have signed up to address Council.

Pumpkintown Fire District—Ann Soenen, Douglas Pierce, Lynn Soenen, and Matt Chappell all addressed Council regarding concerns relating to the Pumpkintown Fire Department. Citizens were requesting the resignations of two Board Members, Ms. Liz Myers and Ms. Rhonda Billingsly. Council also heard concerns regarding budget issues and other related personnel concerns.

>Ben Trotter commented that meetings were scheduled to try and work some of these issues out.

Ms. Karen Holland--Ms. Holland stated she had come before council over 8 months ago. She informed Council that much work needed to be done as it related to Ordinance No. 343 (ordinance to enforce towing and recovery). Mrs. Holland complained that Pickens County Building Codes and enforcement officials had not assisted her with the problems she has regarding old mobile homes being on her property. Mrs. Holland stated this issue has now gone to court, and as a result of her issues being mishandled, she can not sell her property. Ms. Holland stated she was not satisfied with any of the treatment she had received from Pickens County. Ms. Holland provided Council with a written document which detailed her issues.

>Mr. Hurst informed Council that this issue is in court, and the County has tried to assist, however, the mobile homes were not found during the original purchase/closing of the property, and with it being in court, the county can not intervene.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark informed Council that he has not read the proposed changes in the Development Standards Ordinance, but he would like an opportunity to comment once he has read the document.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- 1, Dacusville Business Administration. Mr. Hurst stated that the Dacusville Business Administration requested that Council be provided a copy of a proposed resolution as it relates to illegal immigration.
2. Addition to the executive session. Mr. Hurst requested that Council add a personnel issue to the executive session.
3. Letter to the School Superintendent. Mr. Hurst informed Council that he has written a letter to the Pickens County School Superintendent to inform her of the State Statute and Local Ordinance as it relates to building of schools and plan approvals. Mr. Hurst stated he noticed ground breaking ceremonies were being advertised for new schools, and he wanted to make certain that all Planning and Building requirements have been covered.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to add the executive session item to the agenda.
- James London stated he had recently read a good article relating to the recycling programs in Pickens County. Dr. London requested a report on the recycling issues, and begin to discuss next steps within the program.

FIRST READING OF THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARD ORDINANCE AS AMENDED:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes a courteous first reading of the Development Standards Ordinance.

(note) >>Ordinance will be sent to the Planning Commission.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 399, AN ORDINANCE AS REQUIRED BY FEMA, FOR FLOOD PREVENTION AND DAMAGE IN PICKENS COUNTY. THIS ORDINANCE WILL ALSO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 129 AND 383:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third reading of Ordinance No. 399.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE FIRE TRAINING FACILITY:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the funding of \$450,000 for the Fire Training Center. Land for the Fire Training Center is contingent upon property being used for fire training, in the event property is used for different purposes, the land would revert back to the City of Liberty.

REQUEST FROM LIBERTY FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BRUSH TRUCK:

- Motion was made by James London, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to allow for the Liberty Fire District to purchase the brush truck.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw seconded by James London and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

Boards and Commissions

a. WorkLink

Personnel Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the meeting back to order and allowed the following motions.

Worklink Board—Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to appoint Marque Kilpatrick to the WorkLink Board. Noted was the fact that the Director of WorkLink will bring back another name for consideration, as the second person did not live in Pickens County.

Personnel--Jennifer Willis moved to increase the pay range of the Library Director to a pay-grade 43. Motion was seconded by James London. All members voted in favor with the exception of Ben Trotter who opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:
(as transcribed)

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman