

March 17, 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, March 12, 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
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Absent: Ken Roper, Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Dr. London was recognized for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of March 3, 2008

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Justice and Public Safety Committee met, and Mr. Trotter gave the following report.

Meeting Notice

**Monday March 17, 2008
4:30 PM
Main Conference Room**

Item	Description	<u>Referred</u>	<u>Report</u>	Action
8	Study district lines for all fire districts. Petition from citizens in Six-Mile to be made part of the Central Fire District Retained 12/04/2006 Retained 12/31/2007	07/18/06	03/17/08	No action, staff will draw maps and give further study.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst wanted to take a few moments to assess things that Council has accomplished. Since 2006 Pickens County has placed an important focus on the goals set forth by County Council during a planning workshop.

- improving customer service
- community enhancements
- construction projects
- infrastructure advancement
- expansion of the countywide recycling program
- one common objective is to improve and strengthen the condition of the County's economy

- **customer service and communication**
 - newsletter
 - a customer service survey system
 - accessed online or by visiting the administration building
 - online is an opportunity for citizens to submit questions, comments or suggestions and receive an emailed response
 - Government Day
 - held last spring
 - provided attendees an opportunity to see what Pickens County can do
 - Register of Deeds office has gone online provides fast access to documents that previously required a trip to the administration building

- **community enhancements**
 - projects are developed by citizens seeking assistance on a specific matter
 - employees suggesting solutions to ongoing issues facing the community.
 - By:
 - partnering with concerned citizens, local non-profit groups or other entities
 - successfully applying for grant monies

 - County has been able to
 - provide safe water
 - sanitary sewer to neighborhoods
 - Neighborhood clean-ups
 - completion of the new Mobile Home Amnesty Program
 - property value enhancement
 -
 - **Quail Haven Subdivision**
 - Nearly \$350,000 in grant awards

- purchased and demolished several flooded homes in the Quail Haven subdivision of Easley
 - new neighborhood park
 - \$4000 grant from Duke Energy
- **Museum and Cultural Commission**
 - continually seeking grant funding for projects celebrating history of the County rare petroglyphs, or rock art, were found at Hagood Mill
 - only petroglyph site recorded in the state that
 - located on publicly owned property
 - accessible to all citizens
 - effort to preserve this unique asset to Pickens County
 - plans are underway for The Hagood Mill Rock Art Center
- **assisted Clemson University in updating and improving their E911 system.**
 - consolidation creates a more efficient system countywide.
- **Last year the GED program at the Prison was expanded**
 - Work Keys, provides inmates certification in levels of education to become more productive members of the community.
- **partnership with United Way of Pickens County**
 - a new information line is now operational
 - dial 211 to receive information
 - from trained operators about local groups providing services to the community
 - volunteer needs
 - Call data collected can help stakeholders determine social needs in community
- **additional EMS station in southern Easley**
- **Boggs Mountain**
 - a new park.
 - A parcel adjacent to that land was purchased for a class B industrial park
- **Airport**
 - plans for a new terminal and hangars
 - significantly subsidized by approximately \$750,000 federal grant
- **infrastructure enhancements due to rapid growth**
 - road assessment program has been implemented

- county-wide evaluation of roads
 - conducted by an independent consultant
 - with no political preconception or influence.
 - use of consultant was crucial to ensure impartiality
 - list currently includes approximately 800 miles
 - spans over the course of 17 years.
 - **sewer projects**
 - Nearly \$90,000 in grant money extended service to Sealevel Systems and United Tool and Mold on Highway 93
 - ensures these companies the ability to expand in the future
 - closure of the Kramer and upgrade of the Roper wastewater treatment plants
 - resulted in the considerable improvement of water quality in Pickens County
 - completed at a cost of \$4.5 million
 - obtained thru revolving loan funds
 - there is an increased focus on developing infrastructure along the unincorporated areas of highway 123
 - proactive investments will encourage added industrial growth
- **Recycling**
 - public seeking easier access to recycling centers
 - staff has opened a mini center in the Shady Grove area
 - recycling in the County has been a strong focus for several years
 - it is important to maintain the beauty of our County for generations ahead
 - helps save the County money
 - Trash Bash and Litter Blitz
 - spread the word on the importance of recycling.
 - SCDHEC's 2007 Outstanding County Waste Reduction/ Recycling Program
- **improve fiscally responsibility for your tax dollars**
 - **capital improvement plan** has been developed to replace items \$5000 +
 - this planning means we do not have to view higher taxes as an option
 - workers maintain a **safe workplace**
 - keeps workers compensation claims and costs low
 - maximizing and creating **new revenue streams**
 - improvements made at **Mile Creek Park**

- encourage more visitors thus increasing revenues
- \$85,000 grant was received to build a large picnic shelter
- Additional funds have been received to beautify the grounds as well
- More plans are currently in the works to further improve the Park
- responsibly **develop the tourism industry** in the County
 - seeking assistance from grant sources for these plans
- **Alliance Pickens**
 - producing 555 new jobs
 - created by Fluid Routing Systems, St Jude Medical and TTI/ Ryobi
 - Business Assistance Symposium was held to educate local businesses of all sizes about assistance that is available to them
- construction of a **QuickJobs Development Center partnership** with Tri-County Tech
 - Nearly \$1 million grant award
 - center will provide
 - valuable training to the County workforce
 - providing an attractive benefit for future industry

Grants

Pickens County has been very successful in seeking grant funds
 Just over \$4 million in grant funds have been awarded to the County since January 2006

Grant money helps the County expand our capabilities without exceeding our budget

- **continued cooperative efforts**
 - County Council
 - surrounding municipalities
 - local social service organizations
 - new and existing industry
 - citizens
 - staff

We will continue to see success in all facets of the County resulting in overall economic progress. While we look back to all of the previous years achievements, it is energizing to see that there are many possibilities on the horizon for Pickens County. We look forward to your steadfast support and participation

2. Mr. Hurst also informed Council that he was in the process of scheduling a meeting with EPA as it relates to the monitor for Pickens County Air Quality. Mr. Hurst stated he will inform Council of the time of said meeting.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tom Ponder moved to add to the Public Service committee an overview of the roads and bridges department. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

2. Ben Trotter moved to add a personnel issue to executive session; motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

BUDGET SCHEDULE—COUNCIL TO SCHEDULE BUDGET WORK SESSIONS:

- Chairman Smith gave the Clerk a list of dates for budget work sessions. The council was asked to email the clerk and place budget work sessions on the calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion to convene in executive session after a 5 minute break was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Council went into executive session for the stated purposes.
 - *Legal Issues*
 - *Personnel Issues*

PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and stated no action as a result.

ADJOURN:

Chairman Smith stated with no further business, he would allow the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to adjourn. Council stood adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman