

May 05, 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, May 1, 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, Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of May 5, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Tom Ponder was asked to lead the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

(any responses to public forum will be provided at the end of public forum)

Chairman Smith asked the Clerk to call the names of the citizens who have signed up to speak before Council.

1. Sam Wyche – Mr. Wyche stated that he was running for District 3 County Council and he has had difficulty keeping his signs in place. Mr. Wyche stated that many of his opponent's signs are appearing where his are missing. Mr. Wyche stated he would like to run an honest campaign and would appreciate it if Mr. Trotter would tell his supporters to leave signs alone, and he would do the same.
2. Leeann White- Ms. White stated that she and her family are concerned about the DSO because she owns a trailer park and lives on 2 acres of that park. Ms White stated that when she tried to obtain financing, the new DSO would not allow her to because her property is not sub-divided, and apparently it can not be done now. She stated she was not informed about a variance process.
3. FM Caddell- Mr. Caddell informed council that unethical practices were still in play on the Six Mile Fire District Board. Mr. Caddell mentioned that the board is not voting properly and is not considering all sides of an issue.
4. Jerry Sweitzer. Mr. Sweitzer with Vision 2025 thanked council for all the good things they are doing to progress toward the future. Mr. Sweitzer stated that invitations and progress reports regarding Vision 2025 would be forth coming.
5. Karen Holland.- Ms. Holland informed Council that the Building Codes Department is allowing a towing and recovery yard to operate out of compliance. Ms. Holland had several issues with district lines of council, the administration, and the lack of enforcement of county ordinances.

6. Weldon Clark. Reiterated from his past comments that the DSO needs serious attention. Mr. Clark further insisted that Council be careful regarding this ordinance.

Council Questions/ responses:

- Council directed staff to follow up on Ms. White's issues of needing a variance from the planning office.
- Council informed Mr. Wyche that signs get taken many times by the highway department and by teenagers. Mr. Wyche was also informed to check with the highway department for any large signs. Mr. Trotter also stated he had not bothered any of Mr. Wyche's material.
- Mr. Hurst responded to Ms. Holland's concerns by stating it is not that the towing yard is out of compliance, it is the fact that due to the topography of Pickens County, this towing yard is more visible to her.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- April 21, 2008-regular meeting- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of April 21, 2008.
- April 24, 2008- special called – Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of April 24, 2008.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported the following-

- Signs at Mile Creek- Mr. Hurst provided a picture of the new sign at Mile Creek Park.
- Airport Signs- Mr. Hurst stated the signs at the airport would be coming and the grant would combine with a beautification grant for about \$175,000. Mr. Hurst said the improvements would be very attractive.
- Ozone Monitor – Mr. Hurst stated that the Ozone Monitor which was supposed to be removed will not be removed until October of next year. Mr. Hurst stated this is due to an EPA Plan which indicates when monitors will be removed.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben Trotter moved to add the Resolution as presented by the bonding attorneys calling for a public hearing. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- Ben Trotter moved to add a personnel issue to executive session. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A FY 2007/2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve that this constitute a first reading of a budget amendment.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE WHICH AMENDS AND RESTATES ORDINANCE NOS. 386 AND 393 WHICH CREATED VARIOUS FIRE SERVICE AREAS IN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH

CAROLINA PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 19, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 08-03 as presented.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 386 (UNIFORM FIRE DISTRICT ORDINANCE) AND ORDINANCE NO. 393 (SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH BONDING ISSUES AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT TO THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 386 as presented.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING TWO HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$210,000) PICKENS COUNTY, SC, GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2008; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. (VINEYARDS FIRE DISTRICT)

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Randy Crenshaw that this constitutes a first reading of the ordinance as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN EQUIPMENT LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$360,000 RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT BY PICKENS COUNTY, (CROSSWELL) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of the ordinance as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Personnel Issues & Contractual Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

ADJOURN:

Chairman Smith stated if there was no further business, he would allow a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman