

October 05 2009
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, September 29, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Tom Ponder
Sam Wyche

Clerk to Council: Donna Owen

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER :

Chairman Smith called the meeting of October 5, 2009 to order and welcomed those in attendance. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Crenshaw

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith recognized the Clerk to Council for a list of citizen names for participation at Public Forum.

- 1) Dennis Reinert – Mr. Reinert made comments regarding the negative EPA air quality issue and the air monitoring in Pickens County. Mr. Reinert stated that the Pickens County Tax Payer Association was supportive of Pickens County joining other cities and counties in a law suit for such an erroneous monitoring system. Pickens County does not need this added burden as commercial business declines thus making it more difficult on taxpayers.
- 2) Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark informed Council the Planning Commission has submitted Development Standard Ordinance (DSO) changes. He wanted Council to know that the Pickens County Tax Payers Association would oppose zoning in the unincorporated areas of Pickens County. Mr. Clark also concurred with Mr. Reinert as it relates to the air quality monitoring data, and further said it was not possible to have a poor air quality issue in an area which had little to no manufacturing plants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of September 14, 2009 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst brought the following items to Council's attention

1. The Transportation Committee discussed the timing of a traffic light study. Mr. Hurst explained many areas are doing the traffic light study in order to keep a consistent flow

of traffic and lessen automobile emissions. Mr. Hurst recommended that Council place this issue in a committee for further study.

2. Mr. Hurst informed Council that he and Councilman Crenshaw met with the City of Central and the Town of Norris for the purpose of Cateechee being taken into the Norris fire district. Mr. Hurst stated due to the boundaries needing to be redrawn, he recommends the issue going to committee.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Jennifer Willis informed Council the recent GPATS meeting provided no action due to a quorum not being present, and that GPATS would meet in November.

Chairman Smith called attention to a letter that Council had received from Larry Martin as it relates to the EPA and air quality, and further advised Council to monitor this issue.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith stated he was removing the issue regarding the grant for the north plant, which was number (11) on the agenda. Chairman Smith stated that this would need to be a work session item because in order for council to accept the grant, they needed to be informed of many factors.

- Jennifer Willis moved to add to executive session a contractual issue. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- Refer to Justice and Public Safety – Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed, moved to place the Norris fire district / Cateechee to the consent agenda for committee.
- Refer to Administration and Finance - Chairman Smith, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed, moved to place the timing of traffic lights study to the consent agenda for committee.
- Randy Crenshaw moved to add a contractual issue to the executive session. Tom Ponder seconded the motion which carried a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR SURPLUS SALE:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the items presented to Council as surplus.

APPROVAL OF AWARD FOR 18-MILE SEWER:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to approve the award for 18 Mile sewer bid to Chandler Construction.

APPROVAL OF ROAD PAVING BID:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the road paving bid for the additional roads.

APPROVAL OF \$1.5 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT CONDITIONS FOR NORTH PLANT:

*** Chairman Smith removed this item and placed it on the work session of October 19, 2009.*

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

- a. Public Service Committee- Request for Griffwood Lynn Drive to be accepted into the minimum maintenance system.
- b. Justice and Public Safety- Norris and Catechee fire district issue
- c. Administration and Finance – Traffic light study

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Personnel Items
 Boards and Commissions as needed or requested
 Contractual Issues (3)
 Legal Issue/Legal Update (2)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw and seconded by Jennifer Willis to approve the contract as submitted by Crosswell Fire District.
- Jennifer Willis moved to make the following changes to the employee group health insurance program. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
 - Tobacco Fee will increase from \$10.82 per pay period to \$15.00 per pay period
 - Co-pay for specialty drugs will increase from \$100.00 to \$250.00
 - Emergency Room visits Co-pay will increase from \$100.00 to \$250.00 per visit
 - Voluntary plans will no longer be administered by payroll- those plans of Accident, Heart, ICU, whole life, and Cancer can continue via direct bill. Gap will no longer be offered.
 - \$206,000 approved to be refunded from the insurance funds.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
 Pickens County