

December 07, 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, December 03, 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 December 7, 2009 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Sam Wyche gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

With this being the first meeting of the month, Chairman Smith requested a list of citizens for public forum from the Clerk to Council.

1. Philip Smith- Mr. Smith introduced himself as a Liberty resident and stated he has begun a website entitled atlibertytosay.com. Mr. Smith stated that he thought it was important for Liberty to have more of a voice. Mr. Smith also brought up issues of concern that may or may not be a county function. 1) The large memorial on Highway 178, and the fact that it was distracting to motorists. 2) Where would a citizen go for information about the recent arrest of a Liberty resident as it relates to the inhumane treatment of animals and the possibility that some of the animals were stolen?

Chairman Smith stated that it was unusual for council to correspond during public forum, but informed Mr. Smith he would need to seek State input on the highway issue because that was a Department of Transportation issue. Also the animal case was purely an Anderson County function because the citizen lived in Anderson County and not Pickens County.

2. Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated that the planning commission recently sent out amendments to the Development Standards Ordinance, and as a member of the planning commission, he informed council that all the changes were relative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that the November 16, 2009 minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee Chairman James London gave the Justice and Public Safety Report: The Committee met in the Main Conference Room with all members present and Committee Chairman James London presiding. Also in attendance was Chairman Neil Smith.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Item	Description		Committee Report
5	Norris fire district / Cateechee amendment to the district lines of Central and Norris	10/05/09	<p>11/02/09- attorney is working on contract.</p> <p>>>Committee approved a contract between Norris and Central so that Norris can provide Fire service to the Cateechee subdivision.</p> <p>>>Council unanimously approved</p>
6	Council rules as it relates to council meetings, committee data and times for reporting back to council.	11/16/09	<p>>>Committee recommends amending the language in the Council Rules on page 19, Section b. to state:</p> <p>Committee log items should be met upon within 60 days unless in depth research, budget constraints or other extenuating circumstances that may prohibit this timeline. Also, major topics of concern can be directed to the Committee of the whole.</p> <p>>>amendment passed with Neil Smith and Jennifer Willis opposed.</p>

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported on the following issues-

1. Mr. Hurst asked council to read the information that was placed in their folder as it related to a recent study as submitted regarding the effects of property taxing 6% for a second home.
2. The Department of Social Services’ addition is complete, and Mr. Hurst stated it looks good and the State officials are extremely pleased with the results.
3. The Humane Society volunteer, Tina Propper wrote council a thank you note for the installation of the door locks. She thanked council and staff for their quick response. Mr. Hurst stated the total cost was \$4,400.
4. Upcoming events: December 8th at noon was Crosswell Fire District grand opening.
December 10th at 5:30 was the tourism information summit held at the Madren Center.
5. Mr. Hurst informed Council of the ongoing training of Emergency Management and informed Council of an excellent review on the recent table top that involved

a mock chemical spill. Mr. Hurst stated over 20 agencies were involved, and this was resulting in excellent communication.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

December schedule- Chairman Smith stated that Council would have their second meeting in December. Mr. Smith stated that Council has a motion on the table from last meeting that will need to be considered for a work session. Committee logs- Chairman Smith also called attention to the committee logs and asked each council member to realize the last meeting of the year, that issues would automatically leave the log if not formally retained.

Councilman Wyche stated that January 19th, 2010 would be another FastTrac class from the education stimulus. He also gave citizens the email information for enrolling.

Motion Period and New Business:

- Sam Wyche requested to place on consent an issue relating to the DSO. Chairman Smith stated with the entire DSO being in committee, that any issue Councilman Wyche had, he could discuss at that time. Mr. Wyche removed his motion.

- Jennifer Willis moved to remove the Economic Development ordinance off the table and send it to the Committee of whole for a December 21, 2009 Committee of the whole meeting. Tom Ponder gave a second and motion was unanimously passed.

- James London requested to remove from the Education, Recreation, and County Planning committee the third dam issue and place in the Committee of the Whole for the December 21st agenda. Motion was seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed.

UPDATE AND PRESENTATION REGARDING SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING:

Mr. Hurst gave council an update regarding the history of the recycling efforts as it pertains to the County and the municipalities. He proposed plans for extension and helping the cities reach their goals. Mr. Hurst overviewed that much of the issue was the fact that the county has the best recycling program in the State and works hard toward keeping materials out of the waste stream. The cities have not been as progressive and the county is hauling the refuse to the landfill at no additional cost. However, if the cities would raise the amount of recycling the expenses would be greatly alleviated. Council was made aware of discussions and ongoing ideas which the county and cities have been sharing. Mr. Hurst stated he and staff are working with the cities, and would continue an open dialogue in order to accomplish needed goals.

All Council agreed that refuse could not keep being hauled unfunded, and that the municipalities needed stronger programs. Council also asked Mr. Hurst to keep the communication open, and they would appreciate adequate time for municipalities to adjust their budgets if added cost were needed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Refer to Committee of the Whole-- Planning Commission recommendations relating to the DSO
Refer to Committee--Administration and Finance-Sewer Use Ordinance

Amendment: Refer to the Committee of the Whole- Economic Development Ordinance, and the Third Dam on Twelve Mile.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Tom Ponder moved that council convene in executive session for the stated purposes. Jennifer Willis seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Boards and Commissions as needed or requested

Contractual Issue

Legal Issue

Economic Development

PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting back to order and stated that council had discussion relating to a contractual issue and legal issue as well as Economic Development. While no action is forthcoming on legal or economic, Chairman Smith called for a motion to consider the contractual issue.

- Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London moved to approve the Easley Rural Fire District contract with the City of Easley. Motion was unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business of the Pickens County Council, Chairman Smith entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council