

October 4, 2010
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 30, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of October 4, 2010 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Crenshaw.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith called upon the Clerk for a record of citizen's requesting to speak.

William Odell, Lee Houston, and Russell Almond – These residents came before Council to request assistance with a nearby neighbor within their subdivision of Huntington Estates, who has a shooting range on his property. While the subdivision rules state that he cannot have a business, it would be difficult to prove that the range is in fact a business. The residents explained that the shooting goes on during all hours, and many people come and go from the area. Mr. Odell requested that council assist them with this nuisance.

>>Several comments were made by Council, and Mr. Odell was instructed to begin with his restrictive covenants for his neighborhood, and to further see staff in Planning.

Dot Jackson-Ms. Jackson stated that tourism in Pickens County would be greatly improved by the upcoming Smithsonian roots music exhibit, which would be in Pickens from March 2012 – April 2012. Ms. Jackson stated the first of many meetings were taking place Wednesday at Southern Wesleyan, and all citizens interested in this project should become involved. Ms. Jackson also informed Council that Birchwood has a new number of 878-7579.

Junius Smith- Mr. Smith thanked the Council and staff for collecting taxes in the proper and correct way. He further stated all tax payers should appreciate that fact. Mr. Smith stated the School Board has not been as efficient with the tax payers money, and further stated the school board has taking the over collection and paid off bonds, which in his opinion is not legal.

On other matters, Mr. Smith stated that on ETV there are several programs which define how the United Nations is trying to take over, and push the sustainable development, green space, and bike paths. Mr. Smith encouraged Council to view these programs, and rethink issues with the comprehensive plan.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated he would be glad to assist the citizens in Huntington Estates with their shooting range issue. He believes the Development Standards Ordinance may provide guidance. On other matters, Mr. Clark stated he heard there was a proposal to spend funds for a potential teenage club at the Easley Library. Mr. Clark stated there was ample space in the library in the upper levels, and he would be opposed for funding consultants when it was clear where the extra space is located.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010-

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

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Special Presentation:

Mr. Hurst made a special presentation about the Palmetto Shield Task Force of Pickens, Greenwood, Abbeville, Anderson, and Oconee County. Mr. Hurst reminded everyone that this Task Force recently won the award this year at the South Carolina annual conference. However, Mr. Hurst stated while these departments and counties were being recently honored for the State award, the Task Force was recognized by the International Emergency Managers Association as having the best model for emergency management in the United States. Mr. Hurst stated this was an incredible recognition and he wanted to personally thank Lynn Fisher, Lisa Merck, and Denise Kwiatek for the Pickens County portion of this honor. Mr. Hurst emphasized how fortunate Pickens County was to be under the leadership of Mr. Fisher and his staff. Mr. Hurst also noted that the previous Emergency Management Director, Don Evett, was to be commended for the many programs that were started during his leadership.

Mr. Hurst presented the award and gave the Emergency staff a big round of applause.

>>>Council thanked staff and stated they were extremely proud of the level of recognition.

E-Waste- Mr. Hurst informed Council of House Bill 493 which establishes a recovery program for electronics. (computers, laptops, TV, cell phones, etc) This law states these type items must be separated from the regular waste stream. As a result of this law, Mr. Hurst stated he has contacted the municipalities, and will assist them in programs to separate any e-waste from being combined with other refuse.

Regional business and industry showcase- Mr. Hurst stated the Regional business and industry showcase was a great success. More than 6,000 school age children were present, and over 60 industries were exhibiting. These types of exhibits truly made children understand the benefit and importance of education. This was designed to motivate school age children to begin thinking about their high school and college careers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Smith gave the following report:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main conference room with Health Care Brokers in order to look at health care options for County employees. Chairman Smith presided. Also in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
Jim London
Tom Ponder
absent: Sam Wyche
Randy Crenshaw

Staff:
Chappell Hurst, Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Jennifer Woods, Human Resources Director

Agenda Log Item: Pickens County Health Insurance and dental benefits

Committee looked at different options, and recommended the County Health Insurance go to Blue Choice for Pickens County Employees and Companion for dental.

- All Members voted to approve as presented.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith reminded Council that the Clerk is sending out correspondence electronically so council will receive most items prior to meeting dates.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith asked for any new business. Hearing none, the session was closed.

APPROVAL FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF PRE-OWNED FIRE TRUCK FOR PUMPKINTOWN FIRE DISTRICT:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, and seconded by Sam Wyche to allow \$27,500 from the fire reserve funds and \$15,000 from the fireman fund for the purchase of a fire truck. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Public Service Committee: Starlight Lane – minimum maintenance

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Legal update

Personnel update

Contractual issue

Boards and Appointments:

Pickens Fire District

Assessment board of appeals

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and allowed the following Motions.

- Pickens fire: Sam Wyche made the motion to place William Nabors on the Pickens Fire Board. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Assessment and Appeals: Jennifer Willis moved to place Melissa Mote and Mike A. Thomas on the Board of Assessment and Appeals. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council