

April 19, 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, April 14, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Tom Ponder
Randy Crenshaw
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 April 19, 2010 to order, and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Crenshaw was recognized for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the April 5, 2010 minutes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- 1) Tax Reassessment- Mr. Hurst asked Council and the Public to see a short presentation by Tax Assessor David Day.

Mr. Day explained that by state law a reassessment had to be done in every county in the State of South Carolina every fifth year; and in Pickens County it was delayed one year as provided by the law. Thus, reassessment has not been done since 2003. Mr. Day went through the website information as well as the proper procedures for asking questions about how property is evaluated. Mr. Day also stated that all the information for valuing property is available to the general public, and is the same data that his offices uses to calculate property values.

Mr. Day gave examples using the website and informed the public about how the appeals process works. In addition, it was stated that staff would be set up in the lobby for citizens to ask questions and better understand property values. Mr. Day stated he and his staff would do their best to help any citizen who needed assistance.

- 2) Mr. Hurst asked Council and the public to see a short presentation by the Emergency Management Director.

Lynn Fisher, EMS Director, gave council a brief overview of some of the security technology that was now available for Pickens County. Specifically Mr. Fisher demonstrated how GIS mapping has partnered with Clemson University and utilized google earth to view buildings and identify

all the exits and entrances within those buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency situation. Council also viewed a live video which was coming in from the satellite. Mr. Fisher concluded by stating this was not only useful for safety, but also was proving to be a great training mechanism for fire, EMS, other police.

>>>Mr. Hurst commented that this was an actual security program that Mr. Fisher has seen with homeland security in the State of Alabama. Due to Mr. Fisher's dedication to the safety and emergency services for Pickens County, this is the first County in South Carolina to utilize this technology.

- 3) Airport Director, Skeets Cooper informed Council that the April fundraising event at the Pickens County Airport raised over \$9,000 for Meals on Wheels. Council applauded the great job, and further thanked Mr. Cooper for all the work at the Airport.

Laurel Ridge- Mr. Hurst concluded his report by informing Council that he and staff were continuing to meet with property owners in Laurel Ridge

Council Correspondence:

Sam Wyche stated he was going to present a proclamation to the Cold Spring Missionary Baptist Church on May 2, 2010. This would be to honor a church that has been in existence for One Hundred and Forty years. Mr. Wyche stated all Council were invited.

GPATS- Jennifer Willis brought to the attention of Council that the Citizens Advisory Committee was being revitalized, and she wanted to make sure Pickens County has citizens who were interested in transportation issues appointed to the committee. Mrs. Willis stated that the board would meet about twice per year. The following announcement from GPATS was sent to Council Members.

GPATS is in the process of creating a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). It is the CAC's responsibility to advise the GPATS Policy Committee and Study Team on matters of public opinion related to transportation planning. GPATS formed a Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC – similar to a CAC) several years ago as part of the long-range transportation planning process as a means of gathering more input from a wide range of residents and groups. The group has been inactive for about two years, and GPATS would like to see a CAC start up and remain active, even outside of our long-range plan update cycles. We will ask the CAC members to meet at least twice a year, and more meetings may be needed if there is a major project or initiative under way.

GPATS Policy Committee members decided at the March 15th meeting to appoint members to the CAC as follows: each Greenville County Council member may appoint one resident to serve on the CAC; each Pickens County Council member within the GPATS area (Districts 3, 4, 5, and 6) may appoint one resident; Anderson County Council District 6's representative may appoint one person; and the mayor of each municipality within GPATS may appoint one resident. The municipalities within GPATS are Easley, Fountain Inn, Greenville, Greer, Liberty, Mauldin, Pickens, Simpsonville, and Travelers Rest. CAC members may not be state, county, or municipal elected officials or declared candidates for public office. People who had previously served on the TPAC will be invited to re-join if they are interested, and other residents may apply for membership to be approved by the Policy Committee so we can ensure a good representation of various interests (i.e. business, labor, senior citizens, neighborhoods, people with disabilities, environmental concerns, and so on).

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business, hearing none the floor was closed.

PRESENTATION BY APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR ANNUAL UPDATE:

Executive director Steve Pelissier from the Appalachian Council of Governments presented council with the annual report and pointed out several programs the AGOG, which serves 42 municipalities and 6 counties, were establishing. Mr. Pelissier called special attention to program that are available to small businesses that support many of the communities.

RESOLUTION HONORING DR. JAMESON FOR HIS WORK ON THE PICKENS COUNTY CULTURAL COMMISSION:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to approve the resolution to honor Dr. Jameson for the years of service to the Cultural Commission.

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INDUCEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND A COMPANY KNOWN AS JS PROJECT:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis and seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the resolution authorizing the inducement agreement regarding an economic development project. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE BY PICKENS COUNTY OF CERTAIN LAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED JS PROJECT:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitute of first reading of said ordinance to convey land.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY PICKENS COUNTY AND THE COMPANY KNOWN AS JS PROJECT:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed that this constitute a first reading of said ordinance for a fee in lieu.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
Administration and Finance Committee- Accommodations Tax recommendations

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
Legal Update
Contractual Issues (3)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised no action or motions would be forth coming as a result of discussion regarding (3) Contractual issues and a legal briefing.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council