

August 16, 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, August 11, 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 August 16, 2010 to order and further led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Smith welcomed all those in attendance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public forum and requested a list of speakers from the Clerk to Council.

Bill Johnston--Mr. Johnston stated he was in the process of appealing his recent evaluation and appraisal of his home. Mr. Johnston explained that he did improve his home (2) years ago, and understood the assessment at that time, however, since that appraisal, there have been no improvements. Mr. Johnston stated he understood the process and he was in his second appeal.  
>Council corresponded with Mr. Johnston about the issues of reassessment.

Junius Smith--Mr. Smith stated on reassessment that it was not legal to have a surplus of funding from reassessment, and he agreed with Mr. Johnston that houses can not go up in value during an economic time of all values being down. Mr. Smith stated the property value was a tool for extending the bonding capacities of the school board. Mr. Smith also wanted to discuss an article that had recently been in the newspaper as it pertains to cities in Pickens County connecting themselves with bike paths. Mr. Smith stated that the cities stated application for a grant and forced annexation would be part of the bike paths. Mr. Smith stated the bike path issue is another factor in the sustainable government movement. Mr. Smith stated he was highly opposed to taking the right of ways for bicyclist.

>Council interjected several points such as state law provisions for reassessing property values. And Dr. London stated the bike paths in Clemson and Central work well for students who utilize the bikes as well as motorist who prefer the bicyclist to have more space.

Dennis Reinert-- Mr. Reinert stated he has been investigating the issues surrounding the EPA and air quality provisions. Mr. Reinert stated that local attorneys and regular environmental agencies are concerned about this issue. Mr. Reinert stated if the air quality standards move to an

unrealistic and non-attainable goal, then all business will cease for Pickens County and the entire State. Mr. Reinhert stated it was a serious matter, and he wanted to brief Council regarding his findings.

Weldon Clark—Mr. Clark stated he had missed the meeting of July 19, 2010, but wanted to thank Pickens County Staff for quick responses to an early July storm that ripped up trees in his neighborhood. Mr. Clark stated he was impressed with how quickly the Roads and Bridges crews were responding to the storm damage. Also Mr. Clark invited the public to come to the Pickens County Tax Payers Association on August 24, 2010 at Farm Bureau in Pickens. Mr. Clark stated this will be an open forum to speak with candidates vying for elected office.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche and seconded by James London to approve the minutes of July 19, 2010. All voted in the affirmative with the exception of Tom Ponder who abstained due to absence of the July meeting.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Hurst elaborated on the following items.

Beautification Committee- Mr. Hurst stated the beautification committee has done a great job over the years. Mr. Hurst informed Council that Roland Austin with the program "Keeping it Green," was coming to the Hagood Mill and would be filming a documentary. Mr. Hurst stated this is due to much work and interest on the part of our volunteers. Mr. Hurst stated this would be very good exposure for the County.

SCAC –Barrett Lawrimore Regional Award- Mr. Hurst stated that during the annual conference, Pickens County competed for this regional award and won. Mr. Hurst explained this was a joint effort called the Palmetto Shield, and was called one the best security drills in the nation. This award was presented to Pickens, Abbeville, Anderson, and Greenwood.

911 system – Mr. Hurst stated Pickens County also has acquired system servers that will enable the 911 system to function during disasters. This is extremely important for mobile use around the county in the event of disaster.

Simms School Road- Mr. Hurst informed Council that he was most frustrated with the Department of Transportation relating to the Simms School Road project. Mr. Hurst reminded Council that the project was supposed to cost approximately \$25,000 - \$40,000. The C-fund committee has endorsed this project and provided funding. However, the DOT wants studies and different turn lanes that will end up costing considerably more money. Mr. Hurts stated he was still trying to talk with people, but Council may have to contact representatives to alert them to this issue. Mr. Hurst recalled this project is important for opening up an area that the County has already invested in sewer/water projects.

Grants- Mr. Hurst informed Council of receiving grant monies of \$412,300 for the taxi-way and an additional \$38,000 from the State. This will allow moving the dirt and leveling the taxi way site, and preparing for the fire training center.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

No committee reports- noted was a work session with the South Carolina Forestry service at 4:00 pm this evening for the purpose of looking at better utilization of the forestry for

economic development. No action was forthcoming.

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Smith stated unless he heard opposition he would like council to continue with one (1) regular meeting per month and save the second meeting for work sessions, committee of the whole, and individual committee meetings. Chairman Smith stated with the Comprehensive Plan coming up, he knew council would devote much time to meeting for work sessions. Council concurred with the schedule.

Also, Chairman Smith stated the September meeting has already been called for September 20, 2010 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- 1) Chairman Smith made a motion that (2) personnel related issues be added to executive session and (1) legal issue be added. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Items were added to the agenda.

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith closed the motion period.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
  - Administration and Finance – Rules concerning boards/commissions and volunteers for Pickens County
  - Committee of the Whole- Council Rules- re safety
  - Public Service Committee – property easements (ordinance)

**PRESENTATION REGARDING THE COMPENSATION COMPARISON STUDY:**

Mr. Hurst gave council the information which was requested by Council during the budget work sessions. Mr. Hurst stated that Mr. Ponder had requested that staff keep an annual list of the South Carolina Association of Counties salary survey so Council could see where the Pickens County employees were at on the State salary ranges, and specifically common counties.

**APPROVAL OF THE APPALACHIAN REGION COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the development strategy.

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PICKENS COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA AS A RECOVERY ZONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to pass the resolution to designate Pickens County as a recovery zone.

>>Council was informed by Margaret McGee, bonding attorney, that the recovery zone is making Pickens County the public entity for issuing Job Economic Bonds for a certain economic development project that may be locating in the County. Ms. McGee stated this resolution works like the JEDA bond resolution used by Palmetto Baptist Hospital systems.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 433 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 384 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitute a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 433

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 434 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,680,000) BY PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OF PICKENS COUNTY, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed that this constitute a second reading of Ordinance No. 434

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Contractual Issues (1)  
Legal updates (2) - one added in motion period  
Tourism Board issue  
Personnel Issue (3) -two added in motion period

Boards and Appointments  
Easley Central Water District

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised what was discussed. Chairman Smith further allowed the following motions.

**Easley Central Water District-**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve district appointments of Rebecca Platts and George Bryant.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, and seconded by Sam Wyche. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman  
Pickens County Council