

December 3, 2012
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer H. Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on November 26, 2012.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst

Absent: Sam Wyche

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of December 3, 2012 to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Vice Chairman Smith gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Willis opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to introduce the speakers who have signed up.

Newton Brightwell and Doug Barker: Mr. Brightwell and Mr. Barker both discussed the Duke Energy relicensing plan. Citizens expressed much concern regarding discussions about lowered water levels for Lake Keowee. Council was presented with detailed information relating to the detriment of lowering the lake. Council was also given a petition of citizens opposing Duke's proposal. Both gentlemen advised Council to be diligent with Duke Energy, as these meetings move forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES NOVEMBER 5TH, 2012:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of November 5th, 2012.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated Council on the following items.

- 1) **Holiday Schedule**-Mr. Hurst stated unless Council objected, the county would observe the same holiday schedule as the State, which is the day before Christmas, Christmas day, and the day after Christmas.
- 2) **Camp McCall**-Mr. Hurst stated that Camp McCall would be allowing (1) acre for the housing of the fire truck at Rocky Bottom.

- 3) **Shady Grove Fire District**-Mr. Hurst stated Shady Grove will be looking for a used truck to place in another location to cover the (5) mile coverage area. Mr. Hurst stated this was advisory only, and no truck has been procured to date. Mr. Hurst stated the insurance companies are enforcing higher insurance rates for homes being out of a certain radius. Mr. Hurst stated staff is working on a plan to build sub-stations in the vulnerable areas of Pickens County.
- 4) **Tourism**-The tourism website has been in the planning stages, and staff is seeing many opportunities to promote Pickens County. Also, business cards will have a QR Code that will allow smart phones direct access to the website. This website will allow citizens to make their camping reservations online, as well as several other services to promote the county.
- 5) **Risk Management** – Mr. Hurst stated he has debated for a couple of years about better ways to handle risk management without hiring another employee. Council was informed that Mike Hayes, who is retired from the Sheriff’s department, has experience in safety and other matters relating to risk management. Therefore, Mr. Hayes will be working part-time in this capacity. Mr. Hurst stated he has been impressed with his abilities to deal with the employees, and thought this would be very effective, especially in our investigations.
>Council concurred this would eliminate some of the issues of past risk management problems.
- 6) **Graded Nuclear Exercise**- Mr. Hurst informed Council that the State has graded the most recent nuclear exercise that was held at the Emergency Operations Center and the Joint Information Center. Mr. Hurst stated the State gave Pickens County exceptional ratings and some of the highest praise for professionalism during this exercise. Mr. Hurst stated he was extremely proud of the work staff does in conjunction with this facility. It is vital for the safety of our community.
- 7) **National Geographic Magazine**- Council was informed about a recent article in National Geographic Magazine which featured the Jocassee Gorges as one of the top (50) places to see. Mr. Hurst stated there were beautiful pictures of Pickens County. Mr. Hurst stated he was very pleased with this coverage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Willis called for the committee reports. Mrs. Willis stated because this was the last meeting of the year, the logs will either be purged, or a vote will need to take place to retain items on the logs.

- 1) **Administration and Finance**- Councilman Neil Smith moved to retain all log items. Chairman Willis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- 2) **Committee of the Whole**- Councilman Neil Smith moved to retain all log items. Chairman Willis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- 3) **Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning**- Chairman Willis moved to retain the Hagood Mill item, and to purge the abandoned mill issue which has been placed in the Justice and Public Safety Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.
- 4) **Public Service** – Councilman Neil Smith moved to retain all log items. Councilman Tom Ponder seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- 5) **Justice and Public Safety**- Councilman Neil Smith moved to retain all log items. Councilman Trey Whitehurst seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Willis stated Councilman Sam Wyche was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. However, Council did want to recognize that this was the last meeting for Mr. Wyche’s term on County Council. Chairman Willis announced that County Council has made a donation to Meals on Wheels in honor of Mr. Wyche and his service as a County Council representative.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for new business.

Chairman Willis stated she has received a request from an attorney in Greenville County to do a courteous first reading of an Ordinance for the enlargement of the Greenville Pickens Industrial Park. Mrs. Willis stated the development is on the Greenville side.

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis to add this to the agenda. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed to add an economic development item to executive session.

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Council received the audit report from Cherry Bekaert & Holland. Mr. Alan Robinson stated the audit ended on June 30, 2012, and the audit was found to be a clean unqualified audit. Mr. Robinson stated this simply meant that there were no issues with fiscal responsibility, and good practices are in use. Mr. Robinson did inform Council that this is the seventh year in a row that Ralph Guarino has received the CAFRA award for excellence in accounting practices. Mr. Robinson further thanked Mr. Guarino and his staff for their professionalism. Mr. Robinson stated that if Council had any questions as they went through the audit, he would be available.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK OF GREENVILLE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a courteous first reading of said ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.
 - Sale of School property-Administration and Finance
 - Update regarding the Duke Energy relicensing program-Committee of the Whole

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Boards and Commissions
 - Contractual Items (3)
 - Legal Update

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the public session back to order and called for the following motions.

Accommodations Tax Committee:

- Councilman Neil Smith moved to re-appoint Dale Powell, Dot Yandle, Amy Barrett, and Sandra Wimphrie to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.

Beautification Advisory Board:

- Chairman Willis moved to appoint Marjorie Moon to the Beautification Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Ordinance authorizing the granting and transfer of certain real property from Pickens County, South Carolina to Project Delta:

- Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said Ordinance.

Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement between Pickens County South Carolina and project delta; the granting of special source revenue credit; and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a fee in lieu of taxes:

- Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said Ordinance.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman