

April 2, 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 March 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
Sam Wyche

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of April 2, 2012 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst 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.

- 1) Jhonnelle Raines- Mrs. Raines read Council an essay written in 1963 by Paul Harvey. The document made reference to leadership changes that were described as evil and immoral. Mrs. Raines concluded by stating that in her opinion the current birth documentation of our President of the United States was symbolic of Americans accepting leadership from one without acceptable morals. Mrs. Raines further asked Council to sign a petition to go to congress for a full investigation of the President of the United States as it relates to his birth certificate.
- 2) Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated on behalf of the tax payers association, he was pleased that Council was presenting a budget with no tax increase. Also noted was the importance of voter lists being correct for the upcoming elections. Mr. Clark concluded by addressing Mrs. Raines to state that legislation should be changed to have eligibility standards in order to run for an elected position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of regular meeting March 5, 2012.

Chairman Willis stated the special called meeting of 03/19/2012 that was held with EPA representative, was in transcript form. Mrs. Willis stated the transcript was 81 pages and she would like time for council to read the transcript and make corrections.

- Councilman Neil Smith moved to table the transcript from March 19, 2012. Motion was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst advised Council and the Public on the following issues.

- 1) Denise Kwiatek – Ms. Kwiatek was awarded for her completion of Certification for Emergency Preparedness Manager through the State Emergency Management Training Program. Mr. Hurst stated this is not an easy certification to obtain, and Ms. Kwiatek is one (1) of only twenty (20) in the State to hold this particular certification.
- 2) Rocky Bottom Fire Truck- Mr. Hurst provided that Chuck Haynes, Emergency Management Preparedness Director, has assisted in obtaining a fire truck for the Rocky Bottom fire department. Mr. Hurst stated this truck is equipment for ISO rating and it has extremely low miles. Mr. Hurst stated this truck was an item this community has needed for many years. Also, the truck will be housed at the property leased by the Camp of the Blind.
- 3) Emergency Hazard Mitigation-Mr. Hurst informed Council that he would be bringing an updated Hazard Mitigation plan to Council for their approval.
- 4) Storm Water Meeting- Mr. Hurst informed Council that the Storm Water meeting was informative as State representatives were there to discuss rules and regulations that the County will be providing. Mr. Hurst stated SC Representative Brian White was asked about the regulations and mandates from the State that are not being funded from the State aid funds. Mr. White responded that if it were his decision that all funding to local governments would be eliminated. Mr. Hurst stated that it was time for local government to be very serious as it relates to the unfunded mandates, and further gave the example that when staff is dealing with Storm Water, it is perceived as being a local government regulation instead of a State regulation.
- 5) Chief Justice Toal- Mr. Hurst stated he recently met with Chief Justice Toal, and the County will join the Statewide Court Case Management System. Mr. Hurst also informed Council that he communicated to Chief Justice Toal that Pickens County wanted to see automation with several issues.
- 6) Smithsonian New Harmonies Tour-Mr. Hurst stated he has received an update on the tour and over 3,400 people have been at local events and exhibits. Visitors are coming from several SC Counties and over (9) states.
- 7) DNR Meeting –Mr. Hurst stated the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will move forward with a tower or viewing area at Sassafras Mountain. Mr. Hurst stated that Sassafras is located on the North Carolina and South Carolina boundary, and N.C. has deeded the property so the viewing area should move forward.
- 8) Overlook at Table Rock- Mr. Hurst stated he expected approval of a grant for the overlook at Table Rock soon.
- 9) Complaints regarding explosives- Mr. Hurst stated he has received complaints from citizens about extremely loud and disturbing explosions. Mr. Hurst stated he has been working with the Sherriff's office to determine the cause of these explosions. He has learned the explosive noise and vibration is coming from a product called an "exploding target." Mr. Hurst stated the targets are legal; however, he and the sheriff's office are seeking more information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Willis called for the committee reports.

- 1) Committee of the Whole- Chairman Willis gave the following report.

The Committee of the Whole met on Monday March 19, 2012 at 5:00 PM in the Main Conference Room, Pickens County Administration Building 222 McDaniel Ave. Pickens SC. All council members were in attendance with the exception of Councilman Jeff Martin who was absent.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Jim Wilkie, Planning Commission Chairman
 Chris Brink, Community Development Director
 Wes Hulseley

Chairman Willis will request that Council Convene in Executive Session for the Legal issues of item #7- motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder and seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst to convene in executive session for the stated purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Item	Description	Referred to committee	
7	Twelve Mile River Issue	02/07/2011	03/19/2012-Committee went into executive session to discuss legal issues regarding Twelve Mile River restoration. >Council held a 7:00 PM public special called meeting to discuss issues with EPA representative regarding Twelve Mile River.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

-Chairman Willis stated there would be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 16th 2012 at 6:00 PM. The committee will be meeting with EPA.

-Councilman Neil Smith stated that Senator Martin has requested his participation on the committee for replacing a magistrate. Mr. Smith stated he would serve.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for new business.

Chairman Willis requested a motion to place the 2012 JAG grant on the agenda.

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to add this to the 04/02/2012 agenda.

PRESENTATION FROM APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

Steve Pelissier came before council and gave them the annual report from the Appalachian Council of Governments. Mr. Pelissier went over the many services that are provided to local government and specifically the county of Pickens. Mr. Pelissier stated the county’s annual investment in the COG is \$45,593, and the return on that investment for FY 2012 is projected to be \$3,348,184 showing a ratio of \$73 to \$1. This date is a reflection of Rural Transportation Enhancement Program, Workforce Development, Federal Direct Grants, and ACOG aging Services Program.

Council thanked Mr. Pelissier and his staff for a successful year.

APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTING:

- Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the Girl Scout 100 year anniversary proclamation.

APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION – TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the Tri-county Technical College 50 year anniversary.

FIRST READING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 - 2013 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitute a first reading of the FY 2012/13 annual budget ordinance.

FIRST READING TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of the FY 2011/12 budget amendment.

APPROVAL OF THE 2012 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG):

Chairman Willis stated this grant comes to the Sheriff's Office, and there are no matching funds. The allocation will be \$18,953. The Sheriff's office will use those funds to purchase an automated license plate reader system.

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith to approve applying for the JAG allocation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Refer to the Committee of the Whole- policy regarding water ways and the Health, Safety, and Welfare of citizens.

Refer to the Public Service Committee-State portion of McDaniel Ave. being in the County Road System.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Boards and Commissions
 Fire District
 Appalachian Council of Governments
 Planning Commission
 Legal Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Liberty Fire Board:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to appoint Dean Parker and David Garrison.

Planning Commission:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and seconded by Councilman Neil Smith to reappoint William Cato to the Planning Commission.
- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to appoint Robert Ballentine to the Planning Commission.

Appalachian Council of Governments:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst to reappoint Tom Hendricks to the Appalachian Council of Governments.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman