

PICKENS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

of

September 10th, 2012

6:30pm

**PICKENS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Main Conference Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Wilkie, Chair
Bill Cato
Weldon Clark
Dennis Reinert
Henry Wilson
Bob Ballentine

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Roper, County Attorney
Chris Brink, Community Development Director
Marshall Brown, County Planner

Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Wilkie, presiding official, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Wilkie asked the board if he be allowed to amend the order of the agenda; moving agenda item II to IV and in the interest of time, with no one from the public in attendance, item III, Introduction of Members would be skipped this evening. There being no objections, Mr. Cato provided the evening's invocation.

Mr. Wilkie led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilkie asked for a motion regarding the minutes of the June 12th, 2012 meeting. Mr. Clark made the motion the minutes be approved; Seconded by Mr. Ballentine. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of July 2012 – June 2013 Officers

Mr. Wilkie opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Mr. Ballentine nominated Mr. Wilkie as Chair.

There being no further nominations, the nomination period was closed and Mr. Wilkie was elected Chair.

Mr. Wilkie called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Clark nominated Mr. Cato as Vice-Chair.

There being no further nominations, the nomination period was closed and Mr. Cato was elected Vice-Chair.

Public Comments


No one from the public was in attendance; however Mr. Brink entered into the minutes a letter from Ms. Martha Betterim dated July 16, 2012 regarding planning in certain areas of the county. Mr. Wilkie stated that he would develop a response to Ms. Betterim. The letter from Ms. Betterim is attached to these minutes.

Commissioners and Staff Discussion

Mr. Brink gave a very brief update on the ongoing MPO process as referenced in the past several meetings; that County Council has taken action in an open meeting stating that they were in favor of one MPO serving Pickens County, either remaining with GPATS or creating an MPO serving the whole county; they were not in favor of multiple planning organizations serving the county's transportation needs. Mr. Brink stated that staff, as well as Chairwoman Willis has submitted correspondence to both Governor Haley and SCDOT Commissioner St. Onge restating the county's position. Mr. Brink further informed the commission that the GPATS Study Team has recommended that all applicable new areas of Pickens County be added to GPATS; however the Policy Committee has forwarded to SCDOT two scenarios, one being as the Study Team recommended and one showing the Clemson area being split as their own Planning Organization.

Adjourn

With no additional business before the commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.


Chairman

4-15-13
Date

114 Club Drive

Pickens, SC 29671-9041

07/16/2012

Pickens County Planning & Development

222 McDaniel Ave

Pickens, SC 29671



Dear Coordinator,

I have been living in Pickens County since 1987. From '87-'95 lived in Pumpkintown and moved into Pickens County in '95. I plan to remain here for the remainder of my earth journey. Years ago I participated with the group that was working with Clemson University for county plans and to keep Hwy 11 a Scenic Drive. There have been similar organizations to do the same thing. I do not know how successful they have been with the more recent plans.

My appeal is for the current Planning and Development Dept. to consider looking at the whole county and how from one town to the other we can create a residential and commercial flowing from one lovely town to another. Easley has allowed some commercial to be established on 123 that do not contribute to that main road. Between Pickens, Easley, Pumpkintown, Liberty etc. via 123, 183, 8, 93, 178 etc. landscaping bordering the roads or sidewalk would allow one to enjoy the commercial establishments behind the landscaping. Easley began with little and in town on 93 has enjoyable landscaping and sidewalks but unfortunately some shops are not on a regular open store hours and there is a very serious need for a turn light at Pendleton and 93. On Rt. 123 it "needs help" to be appealing rather than tacky. Coming into Pickens with all the new commercial businesses are planned I am suggesting each needs to be encouraged to have selective maintained landscaping along the road to avoid barrenness and unattractiveness. We certainly have examples of unattractive roads in Greenville like Rt. 25. Of course we also have beautiful areas in Greenville downtown that are breathtaking. I do know in Greenville some older roads are being upgraded. Here we are working from the bottom and we have the choice to have a plan for our area.

Thank you for reading my suggestions. I am proud of being a resident in Pickens and hope we will evaluate new businesses, not to have too many duplicating services and the new ones will provide us with needed variety services and creating an appealing area.

Sincerely,

Martha Bettern