

MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MAY 17, 1977

The County Council meeting was opened at 3 P.M. by Chairman Phinney with the opening prayer by Mr. Cox. All Council Members were present.

Motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Cox and carried, to approve minutes of the May 3rd meeting as furnished.

The Oconee Hospital Expansion Study Committee Chairman, Martin D. Watkins requested Council's approval of a General Obligation Bond Issue of \$2,400,000 for new construction and renovations at the hospital resulting in the addition of 40 beds. This figure does not include furnishings and equipment. Mr. Bailes moved to adopt an Ordinance for the sale of the bonds. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and the matter was discussed by the Study Committee and Council. The amendment to Chapter 13 of Title 14 Code of Laws of South Carolina 1962 relating to County Bonds authorizes the County to issue General Obligation Bonds up to the debt limit without an election. Mr. Thomas amended Mr. Bailes motion to include some \$200,000 additional funds for scanning equipment Council had previously agreed to furnish, making the sum total \$2,600,000. The vote on the amendment six for and two opposed (Moore and Cox). The vote on the motion five for and three opposed (Moore, Cox and Crain). The Councilmen voting against were in favor of a referendum on the matter. This project is being planned by Hospital Builders and Equipment of St. Louis, Mo. They will also do the construction. It was moved by Mr. Herring to follow procedures as required by law and hold a public hearing on bonded indebtedness on June 7, 1977 at 7:30 P.M. in Council Chamber, Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried.

Mr. Harry Wagner of Hartwell properties at Chickasaw Point requested a refund of 5% of the penalty charged on some 1700 lots in this development. The penalty was added before all the property was identified. Mr. Moore moved, Mr. Ables seconded, to refund the 5% charged. The motion was carried, and the vote five for and three opposed (Bailes, Crain, Thomas).

Council unanimously agreed to lease Oconee Point Park from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for a county park for a period of five years. John Little, Chairman of the PRT Commission estimated the yearly cost of operation of the park to be approximately \$14,000 and feels this will be exceeded by the income from camping fees, etc. Council agreed that before any gate fee is charged the matter

be brought back to Council. The only requirement called for in the lease is for Oconee County to pave some 3,000 feet of road within the five year period. Council requested County Attorney Fedder review the lease prior to signing. The motion for this agreement was made by Mr. Bailes, seconded by Mr. Cox.

The PRT Commission, at last meeting of Council, requested permission to hire a Tennis Pro for South Cove and this request was referred to Mr. Thomas's Committee. In old business Mr. Thomas moved to fill this position on a six month's trial basis. Mr. Herring seconded. The motion was defeated by a vote of six against and three for.

In other old business Mr. Frady moved to install a telephone line for residents of the Bayshore area to the Sheriff's Office and Tax Center for a monthly rate of \$61.80 with a one time fee for installation of \$76.75. Mr. Bailes seconded the motion and after it was discussed, Mr. Frady withdrew his motion.

Mr. Herring, Chairman of the Library Study Committee announced that his Committee was recommending building two new satellite libraries; one in Walhalla and one in Westminster since there is presently one located in Seneca. Mr. Herring then moved to adopt this recommendation and proceed with plans. Mr. Ables seconded and it was carried.

Mr. Cox moved to adopt an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 76-2 creating the position of County Engineer. Mr. Moore seconded the motion which was defeated; the vote two for (Cox, Moore) and six opposed.

Mr. Bailes moved to approve a change order for the Law Enforcement Center, an addition in the amount of \$890.00. Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried.

Mr. Thomas suggested the Sewer Commission send a representative to the next Council meeting to discuss the problem as to who will furnish electricity to the new sewerage treatment plant.

Richard Lay briefly discussed with Council the State Housing Authority's offer to administer the county's Section 8 housing subsidy program. The County would only have to provide office space for the personnel who would be coordinating the services. Mr. Thomas moved to get more information and to adopt the necessary Resolution required. Mr. Herring seconded and it was approved.

Mr. Bailes moved, Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried to provide \$968 additional travel funds for the Health Department for the period through June 30, 1977.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.