

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 20, 1978

The regular meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the opening prayer by Mr. Cox. Mr. Thomas was the only member absent.

Minutes of the June 6th meeting were approved as furnished. Motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Ables and carried.

A public hearing, as required by law, was held for citizen in-put with regard to revenue sharing and anti-recession funds, however, no one was present for the hearing. Budget Director Richard Lay gave a short description of the proposed use of these funds in FY 78-79 budget.

A briefing on the activities/services rendered by the Oconee Health Dept., was presented by Dr. Rholett.

Forest Ranger Bill Craig gave Council a briefing on the proposed plans for possible designation of areas of the National Forest as wilderness areas. He urged citizens to visit the ranger station and select one of the various alternatives open and give their reasons why they selected a particular alternative. It was agreed that the position of the Council as a body would be forwarded to Mr. Craig. Councilman Earle told Mr. Craig the invitation to the meeting June 15, County Council Chambers, did not reach Councilmembers in time for them to attend.

Mr. Bailes entered a motion to adopt on 2nd reading Budget Ordinance 78-7. Mr. Ables seconded and the following amendments were offered:

1. Mr. Cox moved to amend Department 38 to "Building Inspector" instead of "Engineer". Councilman Earle seconded and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

2. Changes by Budget Director to add \$79,560 as a carry forward in road paving (EDA), addition of \$858 (interest R/S) to road paving account, and subtract the same amount from road paving local, and the addition of a carry forward of \$3,473 for Salem Library R/S (This construction will not be completed by June 30.) were approved.

3. Mr. Herring's motion to approve the request for an additional telephone for the Department of Social Services was seconded by Mr. Cox. It did not pass, the vote 2 for (Herring and Cox) and 5 no (Bailes, Crain, Ables, Earle and Frady).

4. Motion by Mr. Herring to approve an additional 4 mills for school operating as requested by a letter dated June 20, 1978 from the Superintendent of Education, seconded by Councilman Earle. It was defeated by 4 to 2 vote. Voting for the motion (Herring and Earle) voting against (Bailes, Ables, Crain and Frady). Mr. Cox was not present for the vote.

5. Motion by Mr. Bailes seconded by Mr. Ables and unanimously carried to guarantee the School District \$3,993,000 to include Phillips Fibers for the operation budget for FY 1978-79.

6. A change in Department 50 "Charity Medical" to reflect \$25,000 for Medical and \$2,500 for gravel was approved (This was reversed due to an error.).

7. Before the vote for this Ordinance Councilman Earle stated he could not favor the item in the budget calling for a new rock crusher at a cost of \$741,000. This matter was then discussed by Mr. Crain, Chairman of the Roads Committee as to the advantages of such a facility. No formal action was taken on Councilman Earle's position.

Councilman Frady expressed concern that the Tax Collector's Office was not turning in enough tax collection fees to pay for the cost of operating his department. He said he was considering having a Resolution prepared to abolish that department.

Budget Ordinance 78-7 was adopted on Second Reading by a vote of 4 to 2. Voting for (Ables, Crain, Frady, Bailes) and voting no (Earle and Herring).

Mr. Bailes entered a motion to withhold United Fund payments as payroll deductions when the computer update is complete. Mr. Herring seconded and all votes were in favor.

A motion by Mr. Bailes to start clearing the proposed road from Bell Mill to Walhalla High School was withdrawn by him after Mr. Crain announced he was prepared to announce his Committee's recommendation as a result of their study of this project. Mr. Crain then stated his Committee has agreed for the Supervisor to start with the application for federal funds available for access roads, etc. He further stated that if funds were available for the purchase of right of ways, then they favored the possibility of the road going through the Verner property to connect with N. Church Street. If these funds are not available for purchase of right of ways, then to proceed with the application for grant for the road as now proposed, and he so moved. Mr. Herring seconded and all votes were in favor.

Mrs. Wilma Neal of Utica requested help with regard to a water problem on her street. Mr. Phinney agreed to have it checked out and valley the ditch in question. This was agreeable with Mrs. Neal and her neighbors who were present.

Mr. Herring, Chairman of Buildings and Grounds Committee, moved to accept Library Construcion Alternate #1, \$8,500 to relocate sewer line and Alternate #2 to install a sprinkler system in the lower level of the Walhalla Library at a cost of \$13,500. Mr. Frady seconded and all votes were in favor.

Mr. Ables suggested Council prepare a Resolution stating the new fire truck to be delivered later this year replace the oldest truck in operation which is the one at Oakway Fire Station.

Mr. Phinney suggested that since the next regular meeting would fall on July 4th only one meeting be held in July that being on the 18th. It was agreed.

It was announced by Mr. Phinney that 3rd Reading of Budget Ordinance 78-7 would be at 7 P. M. June 27th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P. M.