

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 20, 1979

The meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Crain. All Council members were present.

Minutes of the March 6th meeting were approved as furnished. Motion by Mr. Crain second by Mr. Ables.

Mr. Les Parks accompanied by his Attorney, Mr. Bob Coons, addressed the Council concerning revenue bonds for the proposed construction of the 132 bed capacity nursing home. Mr. Coons stated that a certification of need had been granted by DHEC, further, that this certificate of need would be valid until July 12, 1979. The proposed facility would consist of three wings with 44 bed capacity for each wing. The facility would be approximately 50,000 square feet and cost approximately \$2.9 million dollars and would employ approximately 50 employees. It was estimated that with 100% occupancy \$1.5 million dollars of revenue would be generated annually. The operating cost was estimated to be \$1.1 million dollars annually. The basic need for the facility to become a reality was a source of long term financing. It was pointed out that the total cost for land, construction, equipment and fees would be approximately \$2.75 million dollars. Mr. Coons assured the Council that the County would not be obligated in any way if they passed a Resolution for Revenue Bonds for this facility. He stated that all costs would be paid by revenue from the operation of the facility. His specific request was that Council pass a Resolution for Revenue Bonds contingent upon the assurance that all bonds would be sold prior to introduction and passage of the Resolution. County Council accepted the information presented by Mr. Coons and Chairman Phinney, upon motion by Dr. Earle, referred the matter to Mrs. Jennings as Chairman of Health, Education, and Welfare Standing Committee for study and a subsequent recommendation to Council at a future meeting.

Oconee County Sewer Ordinance 79-4 was adopted on Second Reading. Motion by Dr. Earle second by Mr. Frady - the vote 5 for and 0 against.

Mr. Fred Hamilton presented the 79-80 school budget to Council stating that these budgets had been previously presented to Council and discussed informally during three working sessions.

Budget Plan A, consisted of a 6% increase retroactive to January 12, 1979 with an 8% increase effective July 1, 1979 through June 1980. He pointed out that included in this proposal was approximately \$240,000 for the retroactive pay and if funded, the total including retroactive, be approximately \$5,600,000. He further stated that this plan was the one being recommended to Council by the School Board.

Budget Plan B Would call for a 7% raise July 1, 1979 and 7% January 1, 1980; total cost \$5,156,345.

Budget Plan C would call for a 7% raise July 1979 and 5% raise January 1, 1980; total cost \$4,996,345.

Each of the plans included \$200,000 for Capital Improvements and \$100,000 for Contingency.

Mr. Bill Evatt, member of the School Board requested Council to accept Plan A.

Mr. Gene Edney, member of the School Board said he favored Plan B.

Mr. Waters again spoke at length on behalf of the teacher pay increases. His remarks were taped and are on file in the Council office should anyone wish to hear his remarks in detail.

Mr. Morris, Mrs. Singletary and Miss Newton all spoke on behalf of increased support of the Oconee County School System.

Mr. Crain stated that the County Council sets school millage and therefore cannot fund additional millage in the middle of the year. He further stated that if the School Board and County Council cannot agree he would like to see a referendum giving the following three choices to the voters:

1. Allow voters to set the millage
2. Set at the level as set by County Council
3. Set millage as suggested by the School Board

Dr. Earle announced that the Motor Pool will be able to change oil, filters, etc. on County vehicles as well as school vehicles on March 23rd.

Mrs. Jennings has received a letter from Mr. Geddes, Superintendent of the Sewer Commission, listing projects to be funded that are water and sewer related.

Mr. Frady stated he had received a memorandum from the Tax Assessor concerning application for special assessment ratio for residential/agricultural property and mobile home registration. He pointed out that approximately 15% of applications for special assessment have been received for special assessment and about the same with respect to mobile home registration. With respect to mobile home registration only 1368 have applied for and been issued the registration semi-permanent decals for 1979, this compares to 1874 decals issued last year and it may be necessary for the Sheriff to assist in identifying mobile home owners who have not obtained a valid decal for 1979.

Dr. Earle entered the motion, Mrs. Jennings seconded to request the appointment of Mr. A. S. Chappius as Walhalla's member on the Board of Assessment Appeals. All members voted in favor. Dr. Earle then moved to recommend the reappointment of Willie Jenkins and the appointment of Joan Moss as members of the Anderson Oconee Mental Health Board. Mr. Ables seconded and all votes were in favor.

Dr. Earle announced that two of Title 6 employees (secretary to Purchasing Director and secretary to Walhalla Magistrate) would go on the County payroll April 1st. They each will be a Clerk 3, Step 3 and will be paid from the Contingent account. Mr. Ables seconded and all votes were in favor.

Dr. Earle moved to purchase new tires for the bookmobile from the Contingency account at a cost of \$223.96. Mr. Ables seconded and motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.