

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MAY 15, 1979

The regular meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Crain. Mr. Frady was the only Member absent.

Dr. Earle moved to approve minutes of the May 1st meeting as furnished, Mr. Ables seconded and motion was carried.

A presentation was made by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control concerning the feasibility of constructing a solid waste facility to serve the COG six county region. Mr. Jack Kendall, SCDHEC, stated that Piedmont Engineers had conducted a feasibility study and the results of their study indicated such a facility appeared to be economically feasible. Ms. Gloria Mills, representing UOP (the company that manufactures the solid waste recovery equipment) presented a film of a facility in operation and how the recovery process worked. A representative from E. F. Hutton spoke briefly on financing of the system. He stated in his opinion the facility was economically feasible and that financing would be from tax exempt revenue bonds. Also, that it appeared that the existing S.C. Laws would have to be modified. Mr. Pick Anderson, Piedmont Engineers, stated the purpose of the presentation to Council was to solicit Council's support of the project. Further, he requested that the Council appoint one or two elected officials from the County to serve on a Six County Advisory Group to attend future meetings/discussions, etc, as the project progresses. Mr. Phinney stated he would appoint a representative and forward a letter to Mr. Anderson in the near future.

Mr. Gene Gaillard gave a brief summary on the status of the county's fuel situation. He stated that the allocation for May for regular and unleaded gas was 20% less than the amount received in May 1978. He said tentative plans had been developed that could be implemented if allocations were reduced 20%, 35%, and 50%. He requested that a committee be appointed which would study/recommend what constraints would be placed on the various departments should such constraints become necessary. Dr. Earle pointed out that our consumption in April 1979 was about 4,000 gallons less than April 1978 and said this was probably due, in part, to our now having a single point of distribution and control.

Mr. Ables moved to adopt on Third Reading Ordinance 79-5 "Mobile Home Ordinance", seconded by Dr. Earle. The vote 4 For and 0 Against.

Ordinance 79-6 "Supplemental Budget Ordinance" was passed on Second Reading - Motion by Mr. Ables, second by Mr. Crain - The vote 4 For and 0 Against.

Ordinance 79-8 " Library System for Oconee County" was passed on First Reading - Motion by Dr. Earle, second by Mr. Crain - The vote 4 For and 0 Against.

Mr. Ables introduced Ordinance 79-7 "County Budget for 1979-80", for First Reading. He gave a brief summary of the budget (copy of summary on file) and thanked all for their hard work in its preparation. Mrs Jennings seconded Mr. Ables motion that Ordinance 79-7 be approved on First Reading. Mr. Crain amended Mr. Ables motion recommending that the assessment for residential and non-residential property be changed from 3% to 2½%. He pointed out the difference would

be approximately \$80,000 less in revenue and stated this amount could be balanced in the budget by not building the T-hangers at the airport and the balance from the payment on the rock crusher note. Mr. Crain's motion "died" for lack of a second. On the original motion by Mr. Ables, the vote was 3 to 1 in favor (Mr. Crain voted against).

Mr. Ables introduced Resolution 79-3 "Sale of Surplus Library Books". Mr. Crain seconded the motion for adoption. The vote was 4 For and 0 Against.

Mrs. Jennings stated she had received a letter from Southern Bell concerning the installation of a county-wide "911" telephone notification system. She said a meeting would be held next week to discuss it further. She also said her committee would be investigating the possibility of obtaining grants for Law Enforcement and Rural Fire.

Mr. Crain stated the rock crusher would start up for a trial run and test at 4:00 P. M. that day.

Mr. Lay announced that the Council was invited to attend the Municipal Association meeting in Westminster on Monday May 21, 1979 at 7:00 P.M. Also, that there would be a special meeting of Council on Tuesday May 22, 1979 at 3:00 P.M. for the purpose of Second Reading of Ordinance 79-7 and Ordinance 79-6.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

FACT SHEET - OCONEE COUNTY BUDGET - 1979-80

1. Provides approximately \$4,980,346 for Department of Education...an increase of \$987,346 over last year...will provide pay increase of 7% effective July 1, 1979 and 7% effective January 1, 1980 for Professional and Classified Personnel. This is nearly \$1 million or almost 25% increase from local funding over last year.
2. Provides for 7% salary increase for all County Employees effective July 1, 1979 (\$125,000). This is all the county employees except the Supervisor and Council persons receiving a 7% raise.
3. Provides \$500,000 for upgrading county roads. This is a cut of \$100,000 from last year's budget, ~~plus the cost of inflation.~~
4. Provides \$40,060 to purchase 1 new packer truck, 1 flat bed truck, and 40 green boxes for CCS.., (\$40,060 match will be paid using Federal Funds.) This is a 50-50 match.
5. Provides \$320,863 to pay on \$750,000 rock crusher note. In our work session budget, we were going to pay the total note of \$750,000 from Revenue Sharing, but this would require an additional 7 mils to be added to the taxpayers' bill. We decided to use the Revenue Sharing in other expenditure areas. When the Rock Crusher Ordinance was first passed, council agreed to sell 20-year bonds to pay for the indebtedness. However, due to the high cost of money at that time we financed it on a note basis with banks. We figured this saved the county approximately \$460,000 in interest over the 20 year period, or 9 mils. of taxes which will not have to be absorbed by the taxpayers.
6. Provides \$72,000 to purchase 3 small dump trucks and a bank bush hog mower for Supervisor.
7. Provides \$35,565 to purchase equipment, parts, and 2 trucks for County Motor Pool and payment of \$47,038 on Smith Garage Building. This is a completely new budget item which each council person feels will save the county money by providing their own motor pool for servicing vehicles, changing tires, etc.
8. Provides \$48,000 to pay Reid Garrison FINAL payment on airport.
9. Provides \$200,000 for "Refund to Towns". Last year we provided \$300,000 in Revenue Sharing to the towns. This is a cut of \$100,000. Basically, the additional monies last year was provided for upgrading the sewers systems to get the new sewage project on the line. Oconee County is one of two counties out of 46 which has Revenue Sharing in the towns, and we feel very fortunate to be able to provide our citizens with this.
10. Provides for \$17,000 Homestead Exemption. This is \$5,000 over the State Homestead Exemption for our elderly citizens, and we are proud to pass this on.
11. Assesses residential and non-residential property at 3%. This is the most discussed item in our budget. As you know, we are required by State Law to start the process of moving residential property from 2½% to 4% of its appraised value. This year we are moving ½% to make 3%. The School Board millage was approved @80 mils or at 3% of appraised value. As we all can remember, this was the first item in the budget process to be settled, which was quite an important one. The additional ½% of appraised value will only raise about \$78,000 in our budget process. Research with our auditor shows that we have approximately 7,800 residents on our tax rolls in Oconee County. This calculates out to be approximately \$10.00 per resident in the county. On a \$50,000 appraised house in the county, a ½% increase will be about \$34.00 additional per year. On a \$25,000 house, it will be \$17.00 per year additional. The

The average homes in Oconee County are on the tax rolls in the \$15-25,000 range. This will be an average increase of approximately \$10.00 per taxpayer.

12. Retains millage at 135...same as the current budget year. This is bare-bone budget milling.
13. Provides sufficient funds to operate the new rock crusher. This is a new line item in the budget - \$178,000 to operate the \$750,000 rock crusher.
14. Provides for anticipated cost increases for electricity, gas, and fuel. We figured for a 40% increase in the cost of gas, diesel fuel, and oil, and a 10% increase in utility rates. We reduced travel by 10%. We also reduced for the 4th consecutive year the telephone bill in the county. We are paying the base rate for each office and are allowing for 10% of the base rate for long distance calls. We encourage department heads to write letters instead of phoning.
15. Included in the budget is \$929,392 of Revenue Sharing Funds. These funds are proposed to be used for capital improvements. For example, \$107,250 is being used to pay toward the rock crusher note, \$445,000 for upgrading county roads, \$55,000 for the purchase of Smith Garage, and approximately \$112,000 for dump trucks, materials, and mower for the supervisor, etc.

Presented by Hugh F. Ables, Budget Chairman