

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Oconee County Council Meeting was held May 5, 1981 with all members present.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Chairman Crain.

The invocation was given by Dr. Earle.

Mr. Crain welcomed the media and guests.

Mr. Crain presented to the Council for their consideration the proposed budget for the Sewer Commission.

Mr. Williams presented the second reading of the 1980-81 Supplemental Appropriation Bill to the Council and moved it be adopted on the second reading, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 4 - 0.

Ms. Kelley of the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Plan presented to the Council for their consideration for the County Employees a tax shelter program. In her presentation she stated the only part the county would play in the plan was to withhold the agreed upon amount from the employees check and send it to Public Employees Benefit Services Corporation of South Carolina once a month.

Mr. Brandt, Chairman of Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services stated the committee recommended Mr. Thomas J. Urich's request for a Palm Reader's License be disapproved.

Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 4 - 0 that a radio be bought for the Sheriff's Office and assigned to Tamassee D.A.R. School. The School will reimburse the County for the radio with the understanding that if the Sheriff should need this radio somewhere else he will be able to use it.

Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Butts, approved 4 - 0 to buy two flags that have flown over the Capitol at an approximate cost of \$29.00 This has been brought to the attention of Ms. Marsha Pittman in Mr. Butler Derrick's Office, 133 Cannon Building, Washington, D. C. 20515, phone 224-7401.

Mr. Butts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt, approved 4 - 0 to trade in the County's old gas tank for a larger one (10,000 Gallons) to enable the County to buy gas in a bulk amount. The \$3,500 is to come from Contingency.

Dr. Earle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Butts, approved 4 - 0 to take \$110 from Contingency to repair a gate at Chau Ram Park and \$1,000 to repair damage by vandals at High Falls Park. The County will be reimbursed for the \$1,000 by the insurance company.

Dr. Earle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Butts, approved 4 - 0 to take \$1,993.20 from Contingency for computer services for the Delinquent Tax Collector.

Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Butts, approved 4 - 0 to take \$2,940 from Contingency for postage due to the fact that postage has gone up and we are now mailing tax notices once a month.

Mr. Wynn stated that Rural Fire has received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Forestry in the amount of \$500. This grant is to be matched by the county for the Rural Fire Department to buy hoses.

Also, the handicap access ramps have been installed in all county buildings except the Agricultural Building which will need a different type of ramp because of the height of the entrance.

He also stated the May 19 Council Meeting will be moved to May 26 at 3:00 P.M. There will be a Budget Hearing in the Council Chambers. A copy of the Revenue Sharing Budget will be on display in the Supervisor's Office ten days prior to the meeting.

Mr. Crain read a letter from Mr. Melvin Martin, Chief Probation Officer in which South Carolina Legislation proposes The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Placement and Aftercare and the South Carolina Department of Youth Services merge on July 1, 1981. In the letter Mr. Martin requests office space for three counsellors and one secretary. He asked Mr. Brandt to look into the matter.

Mr. Crain asked the Buildings & Grounds Committee to go to the Children's Home at Cleveland and look at a building and make a recommendation whether to spend \$2,500 to repair the roof of the building.

Mr. Crain stated that Richard Pace of MBTB Had called and said the plans for the DSS Building were complete and bids would be put out next week for three weeks. The bids will be opened in open session in the Council Chambers June 2, 1981 at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Crain then read a letter he had written to Mr. J. P. Strom, SLED asking for an investigation of \$39,000 worth of diesel missing from Motor Pool.

He then read a reply from SLED and recommendations made to the County from Byerley, Duncan & Bryson. (Copies attached)

Adjourn: 7:45


Norman D. Crain, Supervisor-Chairman

Byerley, Duncan & Bryson

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BARBARA M. CONTE, CPA
ELNORA S. CANNON, CPA

April 29, 1981

The Supervisor and County Council
Oconee County, South Carolina
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Councilmen:

We have examined the accounting records regarding regular and unleaded gasoline purchased, delivered to and pumped from the Oconee County Motor Pool during the period beginning March, 1979, through January, 1981. We also examined the accounting records regarding diesel fuel purchased, delivered to and pumped from the Oconee County Motor Pool during the period July, 1979, through March, 1981. As part of our examination, we made a study and evaluation of the County Purchasing Department's system of internal accounting control to the extent we considered necessary to evaluate the system as required by generally accepted auditing standards. Our evaluation disclosed the following conditions which we believe merit your attention.

1. When fuel is delivered to the County Motor Pool, the truck should be checked before dumping and after dumping to assure billed fuel is actually received. The ground tank should also be measured before and after deliveries and gallons delivered checked against book figures;
2. Since gasoline is no longer on allocation, gasoline bids should be solicited on a quarterly basis. If possible, purchases should be from a gas distributor who has metered trucks;
3. Locks should be placed on fill pipes and access should be available to a limited number of employees;
4. Tanks should be measured and totalizers read at least weekly. Discrepancies should be noted and investigated;
5. Pumps should be calibrated on a periodic basis;
6. Adequate accounting records should be maintained for diesel fuel;

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7. A reporting system for county vehicles should be developed based on mileage per gallon on each vehicle;
8. A monthly report recording total purchases, gallons pumped and ending inventory for each pump should be prepared and submitted to the Supervisor by the Purchasing Department. Computed inventory should be compared to actual measured inventory and discrepancies noted.

Acting on the above conditions would eliminate or reduce the probability that the recent problems would recur.

Sincerely,

BYERLEY, DUNCAN & BRYSON



Neil E. Byerley

NEB/mgb

May 5, 1981

State Law Enforcement Division Agents have expanded a two month investigation at the Oconee County Motor Pool to include a possible theft of a large volume of diesel fuel.

The investigation to include diesel fuel records is being conducted at the request of Oconee County Supervisor Norman Crain.

The expanded investigation will involve an inquiry into the unauthorized use of approximately 34 000 gallons of diesel fuel valued at about thirty-nine thousand dollars. The figures are based on records from an audit covering a period between July 1979 thru March 1981.

Earlier SLED agents began an investigation into an approximately forty-seven thousand (47,000) gallons of missing gasoline at the Oconee County Motor Pool at the request of Supervisor Crain. The gasoline is valued at approximately fifty-five thousand dollars.

An audit conducted for County officials noted a shortage of gas and covered a period between March 1979 thru February 1981.

A report on the first phase of the Motor Pool investigation is expected to be submitted to Tenth Circuit Solicitor George Duckworth prior to the June term of Oconee County Grand Jury.