

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular Oconee County Council Meeting was held October 5, 1982 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers with Mr. Butts, Mr. Williams & Mr. Harper present.

Members of the press present: Dave Givens - Greenville News, Glen Gannaway - Seneca Journal & Ashton Hester-Keowee Courier.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Chairman Crain who welcomed the guests and media.

The invocation was given by Mr. Butts.

Mr. Butts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams, approved 3 - 0 (Mr. Brandt & Dr. Earle absent) to adopt the minutes of the September 7, 1982 meeting as printed.

Mr. Dillard Medford, Assessor gave an update on the reassessment program. Oconee County has 630 tax maps and 98% of the work on these maps have been completed. The South Carolina Tax Commission came last Thursday & Friday to do a sales study of Oconee County but there was an error in the program and it had to be sent back to Columbia. It was determined that a split mailing of the reassessment notices could possibly slow the completion down and Mr. Medford should go ahead and let Smith Data print the notices that are ready and hold them. Also Council determined it would be good if Mr. Medford hire two good qualified persons to help with the reassessment.

Mr. Kenneth Williams, Auditor pointed out it would be impossible to set the county millage without the total assessment.

It looks now as if it will be around the middle of October before the reassessment notices go out and they will have to be out at least thirty days before the tax notices go out.

Mr. Donald Mudge, Animal Control Officer gave a report to Council in which he pointed out that they had cut the cost of record keeping at the animal shelter by 50%, cut the cost of disinfectant by 80% by changing companies, set up an account for donations. He also invited Council to come to the animal shelter and give input on how it may be run more efficiently. (See attached proposal on animal shelter)


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Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Butts, approved 3 - 0 (Mr. Brandt & Dr. Earle absent) to reimburse the City of Seneca \$40.00 for a park reservation. The reservation was canceled due to rainy weather.

Mr. Butts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams, approved 3 - 0 (Mr. Brandt & Dr. Earle absent) that the 1978 Chevrolet Impala that is equipped with a police package presently being used by the Assessor's Office be transferred to the Sheriff's Department to replace a vehicle that is worn out and approximately \$3,000 generated by the Sheriff's Department presently in the general fund be used to purchase a vehicle for the Assessor's Office with the understanding that the vehicle purchased is agreeable with the Assessor's Office.

Mr. Crain announced that the Motor Pool had taken parts of some worn out trucks, put them together and made a truck for the Animal Shelter and would take two trucks presently owned by the county and make one good truck, but it would be necessary to trade certain parts with a private individual in order to obtain the proper parts needed for this truck. Council had no objections.

Adjourn 7:38 P.M.



Supervisor-Chairman
Oconee County Council

PROPOSAL

TO INITIATE A PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BY INCREASING ADOPTION FEES, AND CHARGING DEPOSITS REFUNDABLE UPON PROOF OF RABIES INNOCULATION AND NEUTERING.

PRESENT ADOPTION FEES: DOG \$5.00
PUPPY \$3.00
CAT OR KITTEN \$1.00

PROPOSED FEES: ALL DOGS \$10.00
ALL CATS \$8.00

PROPOSED DEPOSITS: RABIES INNOCULATION DEPOSIT \$3.00
NEUTER DEPOSIT \$12.00

INCREASED ADOPTION FEES MORE CLOSELY CONFORM TO PRESENT COSTS OF MAINTAINING AN ANIMAL FOR 10 DAYS.

DEPOSIT FEES WERE DETERMINED ARBITRARILY:

-\$3.00 FOR RABIES SHOT WAS CHOSEN TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSE

-\$12.00 FOR NEUTERING WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE APPROXIMATE COSTS OF PICKING UP A LITTER. COST INCLUDES VEHICLE USE AND MAN HOURS.

WE AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OR A SIMILAR PLAN AS THE BASIS FOR AN EDUCATION PROGRAM EMPHASIZING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANIMAL OWNERSHIP. THE COST OF THE PROGRAM WOULD FALL TO THOSE ADOPTING ANIMALS. PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE COUNTY WOULD BE UNDER WRITING VETERINARY CARE.

WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT ADOPTION RATES WOULD DECLINE FROM THE PRESENT 47% FOR CATS AND 24% FOR DOGS. IT IS OUR INTENT TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR INDIVIDUALS INCAPABLE AND/OR UNWILLING TO PAY VETERINARY FEES TO ACQUIRE ANIMALS FROM THE SHELTER. WE WISH TO DISCOURAGE THE IDEA THAT WE ARE A BARGAIN OUTLET FOR DOGS AND CATS. IF WE CAN MAINTAIN ADOPTIONS AT A MIN. OF 10% WE WILL CONSIDER THE PLAN A SUCCESS.

A PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE WILL GIVE SHELTER PERSONNEL AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME PREVENTATIVE ANIMAL CONTROL RATHER THAN THE CLEAN UP THAT WE ARE NOW DOING.

INCLUDED IN THESE INCREASED FEES WOULD BE THE EXPENSES INVOLVED IN INNOCULATIONS FOR COMMON DISEASES OTHER THAN RABIES, WORMING AND DIPPING FOR EXTERNAL PARASITES. WE WANT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT WE ARE ONLY RELEASING HEALTHY ANIMALS. THIS PROPOSED PLAN WOULD BE USED TO SHOW COUNTY VETERINARIANS THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE ANIMAL RELATED PROBLEMS BY ENCOURAGING REGULARLY SCHEDULED VETERINARY CARE. BY DOING SO, WE HOPE WE CAN ENCOURAGE THEM TO INITIATE REDUCED RATE SPAY CLINICS FOR ANIMAL

CONTINUED FROM REVERSED SIDE

OWNERS IN THE COUNTY.

PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THIS ARE IN USE IN ANDERSON, GREENVILLE AND SPARTANBURG COUNTIES. THIS PROPOSAL IS MOST CLOSELY PATTERNED AFTER THAT OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY. THEY PROUDLY BOAST OF ONE OF THE HIGHEST ADOPTION RATES IN THE NATION. ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF THEIR REFUND POLICY.

IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL, I WILL MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS AT THE CONVENIENCE OF ANY MEMBER OF COUNTY COUNCIL.

MR. DONALD N. MUDGE
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER,
ANIMAL SHELTER

DNM/bjs

ATTACHMENT