

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Fran Burrell, District I Mr. Jerry D. Dyar, District II
Mr. Michael E. Harper, District III Mr. Roy B. Strickland, District IV
Mr. Johnny D. Stone, District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Oconee County Council was held Tuesday, March 19, 1991 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

Members of the press notified (by mail): Seneca Journal, Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Anderson Independent, Greenville News, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, WBES Radio, WZLI/WLET Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV. Press

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio, Marvin Hill - WGOG Radio, Robin Boyle - Seneca Journal, Jenny Munroe - Greenville News, Mark Cox - WYFF TV & Nick Nygro - WYFF TV.

All other persons who have asked to be notified of meetings were also notified by mail. Other Persons

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

The invocation was given by Mr. Stone. Invocation

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held March 5, 1991 be adopted as printed. Minutes
3/5/91

Mrs. Burrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the special meeting held March 9, 1991 be adopted as printed. Minutes
3/9/91

First on the agenda was a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments from interested citizens regarding the sale of \$1,000,000 general obligation bonds for the purpose of improving the sewer lines in Seneca, Walhalla & Westminster. Public Hearing

Mr. Ron LeCroy addressed Council regarding the financing of the project. Mr. LeCroy proposed adding twenty cents per thousand gallons to the present sewer rate to generate funds to correct the I & I problems.

Mr. Ben Vissage spoke against the county giving the three towns funds to correct their I & I problems on the basis of his objection to a tax increase.

Mr. Ray Harrison spoke on behalf of the Tri County Board of Realtors urging Council to adopt the ordinance regarding the sale of \$1,000,000 general obligation bonds to go toward the repair of the sewer lines in Seneca, Walhalla & Westminster. (See attached letter)

Mr. Jerry Wigington, Mayor of Salem & Mr. Bill Tucker, Mayor of West Union asked that their towns be given funds for economic development for a project to be named at a later date. See attached resolution from Town of Salem) Mr. Tucker further stated that West Union has no serious sewer problems at this time, but also asked for funds.

Mrs. Burrell, Council Member from District I, commended Mr. Wigington and stated she realized that Salem did have problems, however she felt a committee should be appointed to study the needs for the Salem area.

Mr. Julian Stoudemire, Mayor of Walhalla, expressed his appreciation to Council and assured them the City of Walhalla was ready to proceed to correct their I & I problems.

Dr. H. E. Finley, Mayor of Westminster, expressed his appreciation to Council and stated this would be the only way the City of Westminster could repair their sewer lines in a reasonable time.

Mr. Mark C. Gilson stated his concern was what would happen if the funds the cities received was not enough to correct their problems.

Mr. Crain informed him that he had repeatedly stated this would not be enough to repair the problems, but would give them a good start and the cities would have to be required to repair the lines.

Dr. J. R. Earle stated he felt Council was setting a dangerous precedent and revenue bonds rather than general obligation bonds should be considered.

Mr. Lowell Macher read the attached statement from the Seneca Chamber of Commerce and stated he concurred with the statement. Personal conflicts need to be put aside and the problems need to be corrected.

Mr. Ben Pritchard stated he objected to paying taxes to fix the city sewer, he objected to paying for the cities' negligence and he felt it was unfair as well as illegal.

Mr. Frank Kuhn spoke in favor of the bond.

Mr. Talley Grant expressed his appreciation to Council for the work they have done and are doing.

Mr. Luther G. Moss, III stated the problem is not just a problem of the cities but a county wide problem and the proposed solution is the best one that has been offered.

Mr. Mack E. Henry stated his only objection was the issue of fairness.

Mr. Crain stated the sewer had done more for economic development than anything else in Oconee County in the past decade. He then read the attached letters and news clippings in support of solving the I & I problems.

Mr. Crain then submitted the attached letters and news clippings from interested persons who are interested in the sewer moratorium being lifted in the county to the Council Clerk to be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that the attached transfer for the Sheriff's Department be adopted.

Sheriff
(Transfer)

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dyar, approved 5 - 0 that the attached transfer for the Auditor's Office be adopted.

Auditor
(Transfer)

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that the attached contracts for puppet shows and workshops for the Arts Commission be approved.

Arts Contract

At the request of Mr. Ernst Hesterberg, Mrs. Burrell, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland that \$1,500 in line item 10 006 00150 68301 be transferred into a line item for project funds.

Arts

Mrs. Burrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, that Ordinance 91-1, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 1991, of Oconee County, South Carolina, for the Purpose of Providing Grants to Municipalities in Oconee County for Improvements to the Sewer System of Such Municipalities, Such Improvements Being for Economic Development and Improved Public Health Throughout Oconee County; Authorizing the Distribution of a preliminary Official Statement and a Final Official Statement; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bonds; Authorizing the County Supervisor to Prescribe Certain Matters Relating to the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto" be adopted on third and final reading.

Ord. 91-1

Mr. Strickland stated that no one wanted to see Oconee County grow more than he did and he respected all Council Members' opinions, however he could not vote on something he felt was illegal.

Mr. Dyar stated he wanted to express his appreciation to everyone who came today, he found it difficult to speak in defense of how he felt, he supported the grants to the towns, but he was opposed to the method of funding the grants. He further stated he felt the sewer plant had meant more to Oconee County economically than any other single entity, that all citizens have a vested interest in seeing that the lines are repaired and the tax base will increase if more industry comes to the county.

Mr. Harper expressed his appreciation to everyone who came to the public hearing and stated we all stand to gain if the sewer lines are repaired.

Mr. Stone stated the sewer benefited Oconee County, he was a firm believer in prayer and he had prayed over the situation. He further stated he believed repairing the sewer lines now would benefit people for years to come.

Mrs. Burrell stated she agreed, it was time to quit pointing fingers and correct the problem.

Mr. Crain expressed his appreciation to everyone who came, he stated he also resented the lack of maintenance on the lines but it had resulted in a county wide problem and although he did not agree with the method of funding, he appreciated the fact that County Council was funding the project and it was time to put resentments and differences aside and correct the problem.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 91-1 on third and final reading was then adopted 3 - 2 (Mr. Strickland and Mr. Dyar voting against).

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that Ordinance 91-2, "An Ordinance Authorizing Monetary Grants Not to Exceed \$500,000 Each to the Municipalities of Seneca, Walhalla & Westminster to be Used by the Municipalities Exclusively for the Rehabilitation of Their Respective Sewage Collection Lines to Eliminate I & I From Said Lines as Well as Oconee County Wastewater Collection & Treatment Facilities" be adopted on second reading.

Ord. 91-2

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that the attached Proclamation honoring the "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Modern South Carolina State Guard" be adopted on first and final reading.

Proclamation

Mr. Crain informed Council that Jenkins Bridge was well its way to being replaced.

Jenkins
Bridge

The Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee scheduled a meeting Tuesday, March 26, 1991 at 3:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Committee
Meetings

This committee also scheduled a meeting Tuesday, March 26, 1991 at 4:00 PM to discuss the proposed contract with the Humane Society to take over the operation of the Animal Shelter.

The Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee scheduled a committee meeting immediately following this meeting to discuss the Premium Only Plan.

Mr. Harper informed Council there was a Hospital Board meeting Monday, March 25, 1991 at 7:30 PM.

Hospital

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that Mr. Howard Adams be reappointed to the Sewer Commission with his term commencing April 1, 1991 and expiring April 1, 1995.

Sewer
Appointment

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 5 - 0 that Mr. John Durham's resignation from the Sewer Commission be accepted and he be sent a letter of appreciation.

Sewer
Resignation

Mr. Dyar made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 5 - 0 that an ARC grant in the amount of \$220,000 be accepted for the sewer line to the Cryovac plant.

Cryovac

Mr. Crain asked the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee for some guidelines regarding unusual circumstances for an employee to use sick leave.

Personnel

Mr. Dyar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 5 - 0 that the attached PIC agreement reflecting the changes in federal assistance be adopted.

PIC Agreement

Council scheduled a meeting with Tri County Tech Tuesday, March 26, 1991 at the Blue Ridge Electric Building to discuss their budget request.

Tri County

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Adjourn: 5:50 PM

Norman D. Crain / sq
Norman D. Crain
Supervisor-Chairman
Oconee County Council