

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Fran Burrell, District I Vacancy, 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, July 16, 1991 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members and the County Attorney Tim Cain was present.

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

Press

Members of the press present: Ron Barnett - Greenville News, Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio, Marvin Hill - WGOG Radio, Mr. J. A. Gallimore, WSNW Radio & Bill Swain - Seneca Journal.

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

Call to Order

The invocation was given by Mrs. Burrell.

Invocation

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 4 - 0 that the minutes of the July 2, 1991 meeting be adopted as printed.

Minutes

At the request of Mr. James Singleton, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office, Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 4 - 0 that \$565 be taken from contingency and placed in line item 10 004 00110 00436 to hire a deputy at step "B" rather than step "A" due to his twelve (12) years experience.

Sheriff
(Contingency)

At the request of Judge Dillard E. Medford, Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, approved 4 - 0 that \$3,840 be taken from contingency and placed in line item number 10 060 00150 00056 to update the computer in the Magistrate's Office to accommodate the new weight tickets and to allow for assessment adjustment breakdowns. Mr. Medford further informed Council that the request to modify the computer to give each magistrate credit for the cases he/she handles can be delayed until it is required by the Court Administration. Further, Mr. Medford informed Council that Mrs. Dillard, Purchasing Director, is negotiating with Unisys regarding payment for work done on the computer June 18, 1991. (See attachment)

Magistrate
(Contingency)

At this time, Mr. Crain suggested that Resolution 91-6 and the accompanying service agreement be delayed until later in the meeting to allow the representatives from the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department an opportunity to review the documents as they had not seen them since the County Attorney had made certain changes.

Rural Fire

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 4 - 0 that the attached bid for food service from Chuck Wagon Cafe be accepted for High Falls Park only at this time. Chuck Wagon Cafe is to return 10% of the proceeds to the park system. if this works out satisfactory, the PRT Commission, through the County Supervisor can expand the services to South Cove and/or Chau Ram Parks. (See attached bid)

PRT

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, that Ordinance 91-8, "An Ordinance Requiring an Advisory Referendum on the Question of Whether Oconee County Should Issue Hospital Revenue Bonds to Finance Construction of a New Hospital Facility in Oconee County, South Carolina.

Ord. 91-8

Mr. Harper then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 4 - 0 that Ordinance 91-8 be amended to read Further, that the referendum ballot shall contain an explanation of the question presented in language which shall hereafter be approved by Council resolution on or before the third Tuesday in July, 1991.

Amendment
Ord. 91-8

Mr. Marshall Parker, speaking as an individual citizen of the county, stated that the hospital and land it was on belonged to the people of the county and the decision of what to build and how it should be financed should be the decision of the County Council or the people through a referendum.

Mr. Parker further stated he thought:

(1) There should be a committee to study what needs to be constructed

(2) It was not feasible to finance such a building with revenue bonds as those who were sick would be paying and he felt this was a great danger as rates would have to be increased constantly or run the risk of default on the bonds

(3) Also as to the lease on the building, the hospital would have to have a thirty (30) year lease on the building in order to be able to sell the revenue bonds. He further stated he felt this was the time for Council to determine how the hospital board should be selected.

Mr. Parker also advised Council and the people to turn the referendum down. He further informed Council that representatives from the bond company could make changes at the hospital to avoid default on the bonds.

To Mr. Strickland's question could the hospital build if the referendum was defeated, Mr. Crain informed those present that the hospital was not a political entity and could not sell bonds, therefore if the referendum was turned down, he did not know of an alternate way of financing the building and felt the hospital probably would not be able to construct a new building if the referendum did not pass. He then asked the county attorney to respond to the question.

Mr. Tim Cain, Attorney stated he felt Mr. Crain's answer that the hospital probably would not be able to construct a new building if the referendum failed was a good answer.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Hudson, Hospital President, stated that 73% of patient days are medicare, not 70% of patients as had been stated previously, 52% of the patients are medicare patients. He urged Council to adopt Ordinance 91-8 to allow the hospital staff to move forward in providing better health care for Oconee County citizens.

Mr. Dick Ledbetter informed Council he was concerned about the cost of health care and he questioned whether we could afford the bond debt service. He further stated that difficult decisions needed to be made as to what could be afforded and he thought reasonable health care should be made available to all.

Mr. Crain expressed his appreciation to the hospital board for making their request, he further stated he felt the emergency room needed to be updated and improved as well as the operating rooms. He further stated he felt the hospital needed better diagnostic equipment, but he was not totally convinced that a new facility was needed. Mr. Crain further stated he valued the opinion of the citizens of the county and would like for them to have a say in the matter of issuing revenue bonds even if the Ordinance was not adopted by Council.

Ordinance 91-8 was then adopted 4 - 0.

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone that the attached explanation regarding the referendum be adopted.

Explanation
Res. 91-7

Mr. W. H. Hudson, Hospital President, asked that the last two (2) items of the explanation be left off the explanation.

After discussion, Council adopted the explanation as printed 4 - 0.

Mr. Michael E. Harper, Council Representative on the Hospital, submitted the May 31, financial statements to be filed in the Council Office.

Hospital Update

Council took a short break at 4:15 PM.

When the Council Meeting resumed, Mr. Crain informed Council that Jenkins Bridge was in, both ends had been tied in and the road department was in the process of installing the guard rails. He stated the bridge was just about ready to be opened back up.

Jenkins Bridge

At the request of Mrs. Frances Burrell, Chairman of the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee, asked Mr. Frank Wise, Council on Aging Director, to present the attached information to Council.

Building
& Grounds

After discussion of the information received, Mrs. Burrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 4 - 0 that the county not exchange the building the School Purchasing is presently using for the old Seneca Preschool Building, but to try to obtain a lease for the old Seneca Preschool from the School Department for use by the Council on Aging & the Health Department.

Mr. Crain asked Council members to review the attached proposed lease for the Blue Ridge Electric Building in Westminster and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Blue Ridge
Building

Mrs. Burrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 4 - 0 that the attached proposed lease for the Seneca Clinic be adopted with the term being changed from a five (5) year lease to a one (1) year lease with option to renew annually for four (4) years.

Health Clinic
Lease

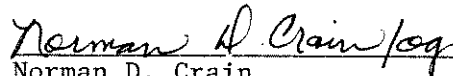
Mr. Crain referred a request for road maintenance on a roadway near the Brothers V Restaurant area to the Roads & Transportation Committee for a recommendation whether this roadway meets specifications for county maintenance. Mr. Crain did not want to be involved in this decision as he has relatives that live on the roadway and it is questionable as to whether the roadway meets requirements for acceptance into the county road system.

Roads &
Transportation

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, approved 4 - 0 that the attached Resolution 91-6, "A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between Oconee County, South Carolina, and Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department Concerning the Provision of Fire Service in Certain Unincorporated Areas of Oconee County" and Service Area Agreement be adopted.

Rural Fire

Adjourn: 5:20 PM



Norman D. Crain
Supervisor-Chairman
Oconee County Council