

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Tim O. Hall, III, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr. District II  
Mr. Harry R. Hamilton, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV  
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

**MINUTES, SPECIAL MEETING, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Oconee County Council held a special meeting Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members except Mr. Hamilton present. The County Attorney was also present.

**Press:**

Members of the press notified (via facsimile): Daily Journal, Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Anderson Independent, Greenville News, WGOG Radio & WYFF TV.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio, Dave Williams - Anderson Independent & Amanda Rylander - Daily Journal.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Chair Hughes.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Ables.

**Discussion Regarding Hospital:**

Mr. Hall, Council Representative on the Hospital Board, informed Council that the Hospital Board voted 6 - 5 Monday, April 23, 2001 to request that the county annex its portion of the hospital property into the Seneca City limits and contingent to that the board voted to annex the hospital association's property into the Seneca City limits. Mr. Hall further stated it was his understanding that annexation had to be contiguous to the city limits and the county property is, but the association's property is not. Mr. Hall further stated there would be some savings in electrical, garbage and sewer fees for the hospital.

Mr. Ables stated he wanted to make sure the county made the right decision in this matter.

Mr. Lyles stated he did not feel it would be in the best interest of the county to annex into the Seneca City Limits.

Mr. Johns expressed concerns that Mr. Hamilton was unable to attend this meeting and made a motion that the matter be tabled until Mr. Hamilton could be present to express his opinion. However, Mr. Johns' motion died for lack of a second.

To Mr. Hall's inquiry, Mr. Norton, County Attorney assured him the only matters regarding the hospital that he could not discuss or vote on would be financial matters.

Discussion Regarding Hospital Continued:

Mr. Hall then informed those present that contrary to rumor he did not have any business affiliation with Blue Ridge Electric; he had voted against the annexation because he felt that even though annexation would provide the hospital some monetary gains, those gains would be outweighed by damage to the hospital in terms of the community. Mr. Hall stated he was against the hospital being annexed into any municipality, as the reduction in solid waste revenues to the people of Oconee County would be an estimated \$130,000.

Mr. Hall further stated he did not feel Council should take sides in the issue or take any action that would appear to be taking sides in the issue. Mr. Hall stated Council should focus on what would be to the advantage of all the citizens of the county and anything that could potentially increase the electrical rates for a large portion of the citizens would be detrimental to all of the county and he felt that possibility existed. Mr. Hall then stated he did not support annexing this property into any municipality.

It was the consensus of Council to defer any action until Mr. Hamilton could be present.

Mr. Johns expressed displeasure that the hospital is being used to get to Wal-Mart.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 - 0 that Council go into executive session for a personnel and contractual matter.

Open Session:

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Lombard, Finance Director, Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 - 0 that \$8,200 be taken from contingency for salary supplement in the Assessor's Office for the remainder of this fiscal.

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 - 0 (Mr. Hall abstaining) that someone from District V be appointed as the at large member on the Sewer Commission.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Opal O. Green  
Council Clerk