

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Fran Burrell, District I Mr. Jerry 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 Wednesday, January 2, 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, Westminster News, Keowee Courier, Greenville News, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, WBES Radio, WZLI/WLET Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Press

Members of the press present: Robin Boyle - Seneca Journal, Ron Barnett - Greenville News & Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio.

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

County Attorney, Larry C. Brandt, administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Burrell, District I and Mr. Harper, District III.

Oath of
Office

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the December 18, 1990 be adopted as printed.

Minutes

The following Standing Committee appointments were made by Supervisor-Chairman Crain:

Standing
Committees

Personnel & Intergovernmental - Mr. Harper, Chairman; Mrs. Burrell & Mr. Dyar

Budget & Finance - Mr. Dyar, Chairman; Mrs. Burrell, Mr. Harper, Mr. Strickland & Mr. Stone

Roads & Transportation - Mr. Stone, Chairman; Mr. Harper & Mr. Strickland

Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds - Mrs. Burrell, Chairperson; Mr. Dyar & Mr. Stone

Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services - Mr. Strickland, Chairman; Mr. Harper & Mr. Stone

Mr. Crain appointed Mr. Harper to represent the Council on the Hospital Board.

Hospital
Board.

Mr. Strickland nominated Mrs. Burrell to represent Council on the South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments Board. There were no other nominations and this nomination was approved by Council 5 - 0.

COG Appt.

Mr. Strickland nominated Mr. Harper as Vice Chairman of Council. There were no other nominations and this nomination was approved by Council 5 - 0.

Vice Chairma

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 5 - 0 that Mrs. Opal O. Green be re-elected as Council Clerk.

Council
Clerk

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harper, approved 5 - 0 that Ms. Brenda J. Smith be acting Council Clerk in the absence of the Clerk.

Acting
Clerk

Mr. Harper stated he would like to go on record that Mr. Crain had only been absent twice since he had been on Council.

Mr. Crain informed Council he felt the most important issue facing Oconee County at this time is I & I. Oconee County has been under a sewer moratorium since June 4, 1990, the problems are in the collection lines that belong to the towns. Mr. Crain informed Council that the sewer lines were designed to handle around 5,000,000 gallons per day and during the last rain 8,200,000 gallons went through the lines. It is imperative that I & I be corrected as Oconee County can not recruit any new industry until the moratorium is lifted.

I & I

Mr. Bob Gaillard, Planning Commission Director, informed Council that in the past eight or nine years \$275,000,000 including Cryovac, when completed, had been invested in Oconee County giving about 3,000 new jobs in the county. In 1982 Oconee County had 17% unemployment and this had dropped to 4% last year. However, industrial development has reached a stand still due to the moratorium.

After considerable discussion Mr. Crain informed Council that economic development should be the number one priority in the county because without adequate funding there would not be adequate funds for schools, health care, law enforcement and other necessities and without adequate sewer we can not attract industry to Oconee County. The county is going to have to see that the problem is corrected as quickly as possible. The first thing that needs to be done is identify the problem which would necessitate upgrading the study that was done some ten to twelve years ago.

The second thing that needs to be done is to provide the funding to correct the problem. Oconee County is prohibited by law to use tax funds in connection with the sewer. We have applied for a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to be matched by the Sewer Commission giving a total of \$500,000 to go toward the correction of the problem to be divided between the three (3) towns. The only other funding that would be available would be funds generated by the facility, revenue bonds or grants that could be obtained which would include the revolving loan funds, because of the time frame of the revolving loan funds it would not be practical to wait until they become available to begin the work.

Therefore, Mr. Crain assigned to the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee the task of determining if Oconee County should seek an engineering study to determine the problem areas of I & I along with a recommendation on how best to correct the problem.

Mr. Crain asked that the committee meet with legal counsel to determine how best to proceed with this project and also to remember that the towns are sovereign, this needs to be respected as much as possible while taking whatever steps are necessary to correct the problem.

I & I

Mr. Crain suggested that the committee:

- I. Meet with legal counsel
- II. Meet with Sewer Commission and towns
- III. Meet to make recommendations to full Council

After further discussion, the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee scheduled a meeting Thursday, January 3, 1991 at 7:00 PM inviting the Sewer Commission and Mayors to discuss the I & I problems.

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland, approved 5 - 0 that the attached Corps of Engineers Contract between the Oconee County Sheriff's Department and the Corps of Engineers for increased law enforcement services be adopted.

Corps
of Engineers

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dyar, approved 5 - 0 that Council regretfully accept the resignation of Mrs. Carolyn Harris as a member of the Arts & Historical Commission and Mrs. Mary Woolbright, Route 1, Box 896, Townville, S. C. 29689 be appointed to replace her with her appointment beginning immediately and expiring December 31, 1993.

Arts &
Historical

Mr. Stone announced the quarterly departmental head drop-in would be held January 17, 1991 at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers. Mrs. Burrell, recently elected in District I, would be the guest of honor and the department heads and general public will be introduced to her at this time.

Drop-In

Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, informed Council that the contract presented to Council at the December 4, 1990 regarding utilities for the Salem Branch of the Oconee County Library was all right.

Library
Contract

Mr. Crain assigned the request of Command Cable Corporation for a franchise in Oconee County to the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee. Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, recommended that Council secure financial statements, proof that Command Cable has filed for license with the South Carolina Secretary of State and exactly what their proposal for Oconee County is as far as the services they intend to provide.

Cable
Request

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, that an offer be made to the Humane Society to reinstate both the "Statement of Understanding" and the "Spay & Neuter Contract" be made to the Humane Society and that Mr. Crain discuss with Dr. Wise some additional thoughts he has had on the situation at the animal shelter.

Humane
Society

Mr. Dyar made a motion that the previous action taken regarding the Humane Society and Resolution 90-18 be expunged from the Council minutes.

Humane
Society

Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, advised that it was an action of Council and could not be removed from the records.

Mr. Dyar then made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, defeated 3 - 2 (Mr. Dyar & Mrs. Burrell voting for, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Harper & Mr. Stone voting against) that the Humane Society be issued a formal apology for the action taken by Council.

After discussion, the motion to offer to reinstate the two contracts with the Humane Society was adopted 5 - 0.

Mr. Dyar asked that Ms. Kathy Holley and Mr. Frank Gibson of Southern Bell be invited to the January 15, 1991 Council Meeting to discuss 911.

E-911

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that Mr. Jonathan Roberts resignation from the Arts & Historical Commission be accepted.

Arts &
Historical

Adjourn: 5:20 PM

Norman D. Crain /cq

Norman D. Crain
Supervisor-Chairman
Oconee County Council