

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mrs. M. Fran Burrell, District I    Mr. C. Samuel Donald, 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 Oconee County Council and the Oconee County Sewer Commission met in a special joint meeting Friday, December 13, 1991 at 1:00 PM in Council Chambers. All Council Members and the County Attorney were present.

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

Press

Members of the press present: Robin Boyle - Journal/Tribune, Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio, Ron Barnett - Greenville News & Carol Kreklar - Anderson Independent.

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. Donald.

Invocation

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell, approved 5 - 0 that County go into executive session for a legal briefing on the Cryovac sewer line.

Executive Session

When open session resumed, Mr. Crain asked Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, to inform Council of the options available to them:

Open Session

Mr. Brandt informed Council there were three options available:

(1) Council could vote to continue business as usual as though nothing had happened

(2) Council could let Thrift Brothers complete the Cryovac project and then instigate an inquiry to determine if Thrifts should be barred from bidding on future projects

(3) Council could instigate disbarment procedures for both the Cryovac project and future projects

Mr. Brandt further informed Council that the last two (2) options required administrative hearings.

These hearings once completed could possibly be brought before the common pleas court and into the appellate court.

Mr. Brandt recommended that Council allow Thrift Brothers to complete the sewer line for the Cryovac sewer line, then start the process of an investigation to determine if they should be barred from bidding on future projects.

Mr. Crain then gave the Sewer Commission an opportunity to discuss the matter in order to give Council a recommendation.

After discussion, Mr. Adams, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, informed Council that it was their recommendation to follow Mr. Brandt's advice to continue as usual and give Thrift Brothers an opportunity to complete the Cryovac sewer project.

Mr. Harper made this recommendation into the form of a motion, seconded by Mr. Strickland.

Mrs. Burrell stated she had a problem with this motion due to the guilty pleas of Mr. Sam Thrift and Mr. Tom Thrift to criminal conspiracy.

Mrs. Burrell then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donald that the motion be amended that include sending a notice of debarment procedures to Thrift Brothers.

Mr. Donald made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burrell that the motion be further amended that Council consider the violation of the State of South Carolina ethics law as a serious matter and that Council reluctantly accept the bid of Thrift Brothers for the Cryovac sewer line so as not to punish the Cryovac, the employees and the county. This motion was defeated 3 - 2 (Mr. Strickland, Mr. Harper & Mr. Stone voting against, Mr. Burrell & Mr. Donald voting for).

Mrs. Burrell's motion was also defeated 3 - 2 (Mr. Strickland, Mr. Harper & Mr. Stone voting against, Mrs. Burrell & Mr. Donald voting for).

Mr. Crain then stated that based on legal advice, the county had little choice but to allow the bid to be honored, the bids were made prior to the guilty pleas. However, in order to protect the integrity of the county's, procurement process, there should be a


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period of debarment for future projects. He also asked that his statement be made a part of the permanent record.

Mrs. Burrell stated she could not vote in favor of the motion.

The motion was adopted 4 - 1 (Mrs. Burrell voting against).

Adjourn 2:40 PM

  
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Norman D. Crain  
Supervisor-Chairman  
Oconee County Council