

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 5, 1978

The meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Cox. All Council Members were present.

Mr. Cox moved to accept the minutes of the November 14th and 21st meetings as furnished. Mr. Ables seconded and it was carried.

Mr. Frady moved to accept his committees recommendation to accept the low bids for carpet and furniture for the new libraries. Southern Home Workshop, Walhalla was the low bidder for carpet (\$21,149) and Harper Brothers, Greenville was low bidder for the furniture (\$95,612.95), which includes an allowance of \$9,700 for planters, displays, etc. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ables and all votes were in favor. (Mr. Bailes was out at the time of the vote).

Mr. Ken Williams, County Auditor, briefed Council on the activities of his office and briefly discussed the changes that would occur in 1981 with regard to the new system of staggered purchasing of license plates from the State Highway Dept. and how it would relate to a change in the collection of taxes for motor vehicles. In his opinion, it would be best if the counties were permitted to handle the renewal registrations. Mr. Williams further stated he projected there would be sufficient taxes collected this year to satisfy the budget requirements.

In old business, Mr. Ables moved to accept his committees recommendation to accept bids from local contractors for the completion of the residence at South Cove Park under the supervision of the County Building Inspector. Mr. Bailes seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ables then read a statement from the Budget Committee relating to the requested pay raise for teachers which stated there were no funds available for a raise at this time, however, it would be considered the the budget for fiscal year 1979-80.

Councilman J. Harold Thomas gave a few comments on the county's progress during the four years he has served on County Council and expressed his hope for continued cooperation and progress.

Mr. Herring, too, stated he was pleased with the accomplishments in the past four years. He told Council Members he hoped they would consider the purchase of a bus or taxi service for the senior citizens of the county.

Dr. Earle stated his Committee has met with Mr. Les Parks, owner of the Seneca Residential Care Center regarding the Certificate of Need for additional beds at this facility as required by the Dept. of Health and Environmental Control. With the deadline for this requirement being December 31st Mr. Parks has requested an extension and has asked Council to send a letter to this Agency supporting his request. Dr. Earle moved this be done, Mr. Cox seconded and motion was carried.

Dr. Earle reported that Ft. Hill Cable T V has asked for a non-exclusive authorization to serve citizens between Walhalla, Seneca and Westminster along existing lines. They agree to pay the County 3% of income from revenues generated within the County. Dr. Earle moved to give this authorization by Ordinance, Mr. Crain seconded. Also, a letter would be sent from Council approving their request. Motion carried.

Mr. Crain reported the contract with Interstate Equipment Co. for the new rock crusher was signed before the deadline which resulted in great savings as the price increase was effective December 1. The installation is scheduled to begin as soon as the weather permits. He requested Mr. LeCroy check on the installation work. Mr. Crain then expressed appreciation to the out-going Councilmen for their cooperation.

As chairman of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Cox moved that County employees be given three Christmas holidays (December 22, 25, 26) and he so moved. Mr. Herring seconded and motion was carried. Mr. Cox expressed his appreciation to Council Members, Supervisor and Staff for their cooperation and help during the two years he has been on Council.

Councilman Bailes thanked Council for their cooperation. He mentioned the mix up in the announcement that the manpower jobs would be terminated December 31st. He requested the matter be cleared as who was really responsible in getting it straightened out. Mr. Hix told Council he had received word that the jobs would phase down December 31st, however, Budget Director Richrad Lay contacted the CETA Office in Columbia and was advised the date was March 31, 1979.

Mr. Bailes listed some five departments who are over their budget at this time and requested they be reviewed.

Mr. Ables moved to recommend the appointment of Mrs. Cathy Reid, Seneca as an additional member to the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Mental Health Board. Mr. Crain seconded the motion which carried.

Resolution 78-11 recognizing the service of the four Council Members, Messers. Bailes, Herring, Thomas and Cox whose terms will expire December 31st was read by Mr. Ables. The remaining Council Members stood in appreciation while Mr. Ables presented a copy of this resolution to the four Members.

Chairman Phinney recognized Mrs. Coleman Jennings who will be sworn in as a new Council Member effective January 1, 1979. He also announced the first meeting in January will be January 9th at 7 P.M. and that December payroll checks will be issued December 21st. Chairman Phinney expressed his thanks to the out going Councilmen for their advise and cooperation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.