

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 13,1979

The meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Crain. All Members were present along with the news media, several county employees and many Oconee County teachers.

Minutes of the January 23rd meeting were approved as furnished - motion by Mr. Frady seconded by Mr. Ables and carried.

Mr. Bill Bond of the Appalachian Health Council requested Council's endorsement of a financial plan that relates to the continuation of continued EMS services for the period 1981-83. Mr. Ables suggested postponing a decision on this until the next meeting. It was agreed.

Ordinance 79-1 "Organization and Rules for Oconee County Council" was approved on 3rd Reading with no amendments - Motion by Dr. Earle seconded by Mr. Frady. The vote 5 for and 0 against.

Ordinance 79-3 "Affirmative Action Plan and Program for Oconee County" was adopted on 3rd Reading - Motion by Mr. Crain seconded by Mr. Frady. The vote 5 for and 0 against.

Oconee County Education Association Representative Harold Waters presented his Association's request for a pay raise for teachers for this school year. There was no discussion following Mr. Waters presentation.

In old business Mrs. Jennings stated the County Attorney is preparing a Resolution/Ordinance as it pertains to the certification and instruction program for civil defense attendents. All rescue squads are presently under the Oconee Civil Defense Agency.

Also in old business Dr. Earle stated that since the CETA Program is phasing down March 31st, all employees effected as well as department heads have been notified. He reported that the equipment for the garage is being installed and expects to have full tire service on February 23rd and be in full operation by June.

An additional \$100.00 (from the contingency) for jury trials for the Oakway Magistrate's budget was approved. Motion by Mrs Jennings seconded by Mr. Ables and unanimously approved. Mrs. Jennings also reported that \$10,000 is needed to cover current bills for maintenance and \$2,000 for tires for the CCS Commission. It was agreed to wait until the new Superintendent is hired before any decisions are made on this additional funding.

Mrs. Jennings moved to adopt a Resolution urging farmers to fill out and return their census questionnaires from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Mr. Frady seconded - Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds Chairman, Mr. Frady, reported two bids were received for chain link fencing for the rock quarry. Sears \$9,224 including tax and Gibson Pools, \$9,412. He moved to accept the low bid from Sears. Mr. Crain seconded the motion which was carried. (funds for this to come from sale of rock crusher bonds).

Mr. Able's motion to fund \$200 for the Library Commission Chairman to attend the State Library Meeting in Columbia died for lack of a second.

Mr. Crain's update on the new rock crusher facility revealed it is progressing on schedule. The two new trucks are now in operation .

Dr. Earle moved to recommend the appointment of Jerome Guest, Seneca and Charles Barrett, Westminster to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Mr. Crain seconded and all votes were in favor. He also moved to advertise for a new position of tire changer at the motor pool, Mr. Frady seconded and it was approved.

As Council's Representative on the Appalachian Council of Governments, Dr. Earle stated various Committee appointments would be made in March and urged anyone wishing to volunteer for these appointments to apply. The only compensation for this service is mileage for attending meetings.

It was announced by Dr. Earle that the Committee for consolidation and Intergovernmental Committee met with the School Board and agreed to develop a plan that would consolidate common school/county functions in the areas of purchasing, vehicle and building maintenance, personnel and computer services, they also agreed in principal with regard to Comptroller, internal audit and budget control. He stated that if Council concurs, they could proceed with maintenance, purchasing and personnel. Mrs. Jennings stated she felt Council should work in this direction. Mr. Frady agreed. Mr. Crain then moved for the Committee to proceed. Mr. Ables seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

Mr. Lay's update:

1. Budget requests due February 16th - school budget expected shortly.

2. Oconee Station Road grant final approval should come in May. No local funds will be required as it will be funded by Forestry, ARC and State "C" funds.

3. The second grant for the Middle School Road intersecting at Earlestead Drive has been reviewed by the COG Planning Committee and their recommendation is that it be reduced by 25% - The County will need some additional \$8,000. Mr. Ables moved to give approval for the grant with the additional \$8,000 being provided by the county and if possible, the County's share be "in kind" match.

It was announced by Mr. Crain that the Council met with the Superintendent of Education and School Board and expect to have the school budget request in about two weeks. He stated it is hoped the county could fund the school department an extra \$300,000 this year without raising taxes. He also stated the county council has no power to dictate how the money is to be spent.

Mr. Ables urged Council Members to work with the Department Heads of the Committees under their jurisdiction with regard to budget requests.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.