

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. J. R. Earle, 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 Tuesday, August 7, 1990 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

Members of the press notified (by mail): Seneca Journal, Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Anderson Independent, Greenville News, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, WBES Radio, WZLI/WLET Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Press

Members of the press present: Ron Barnett - Greenville News, Marvin Hill - WGOG Radio, Tom Johnson - Anderson Independent, Robin Boyle - Seneca Journal & Ashton Hester - Keowee Courier.

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

Mr. Dyar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held July 17, 1990 be adopted as printed.

Minutes
7/17/90

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 4 - 0 (Mr. Harper abstaining) that the minutes of the special meeting held July 31, 1990 be adopted as printed.

Minutes
7/31/90

First on the agenda was a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding the county adopting a smoking policy for county buildings and vehicles.

Public
Hearing
Smoking
Policy

To Mr. Steve Pruitt's inquiry, Mr. Crain informed him Council had received a request from the dispatch area for an exception to the policy. Mr. Pruitt suggested the designated area for the dispatch area as the rest room across from the Communications Center.

Ms. Angela Manley of the Health Department stated that she felt Oconee County could afford a more strict ordinance than the state policy which was a compromise between the tobacco industry and the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association. She further stated that all non smokers became involuntary smokers when they were in the same room with smokers, in 1986 the surgeon general determined that passive smoke caused lung cancer in non smokers. She urged Council to stay with the written ordinance.

Ms. Sue Stone, Chief Dispatcher, agreed with Mr. Pruitt, she further stated that she had one employee who used snuff which was gross.

Evelyn Stephens of the Communications Center stated that smoke bothers her, the air is hard to breathe and also ruins your clothes. She further stated she felt smoking should be banned in county buildings.

Public
Hearing
Continued

Rosemary Littleton of the Auditor's Office stated that she was allergic to smoke, she disliked what the smoke did to her, she has recently been out of work due to sickness caused by cigarette smoke.

After discussion in which some of the Council Members stated they were in favor of complying with the state law regarding smoking in public buildings and some of the Council Members stated they did not have any problem in adopting the ordinance as amended by the County Attorney (see attached copy), Council waived second reading not being placed on the agenda and Mr. Dyar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 5 - 0 that Ordinance 90-8, "The Smoking Pollution Control Ordinance" be adopted on second reading as amended.

Ord. 90-8

Next there was a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments on a referendum relating to the operation of the Law Enforcement Center.

Public
Hearing
LEC

Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, explained to the audience that in the past the Sheriff had contracted with the county for the Supervisor to be in control of the inmates. However, the Sheriff has now said that he wants to be in control of the unsentenced prisoners and would accept control of the sentenced prisoners as well. This could present a problem if the Supervisor had to go through the Sheriff to be able to work the inmates, especially in an emergency situation.

The Sheriff has agreed to a referendum to let the people decide who will be in charge of the inmates and in that referendum the question of appropriation of funds for the operation of the Law Enforcement Center also has been approved by the electors.

Mr. Crain stated that it is not practical to separate the Law Enforcement Center and it is essential that the Supervisor be in charge of the inmates if he is going to work them.

Ms. Tina Johnston asked what would happen if the county did not appropriate the funds.

Mr. Brandt informed her the county would have to appropriate the funds, it would be a question of how much funds and if the Law Enforcement Center is divided it would mean more funds as the present building is not suitable for such a separation and the inmates would still have to work under the Supervisor.

Mr. Dyar stated he would not be in favor of appropriating funds for another building and the only negative comments he had heard about the present system had been from the Sheriff.

At this time Council took a five minute recess.

When the Council Meeting resumed, there was discussion regarding the request from the hospital for general obligation bonds in the approximate amount of \$20,000,000 for the construction of a new hospital (125 beds) and the renovation of the present hospital into a long term care facility.

Hospital
Discussion

Dr. Earle informed Council that the hospital had engaged an architect firm which had submitted three proposals, one of the proposals submitted which had been accepted by the building committee was the renovation of the first and second floors of the hospital for administrative offices and a free standing tower for the expansion of emergency room services.

Dr. Earle also informed Council that the OMNI Corporation was dissolved by the South Carolina Tax Commission May 25, 1990 due to failure of payment of the filing fee of \$25.00 per year.

Council is concerned about the status of the hospital as OMNI Corporation was the parent company of the hospital.

However after much discussion in which Mr. Alexander S. Macaulay, Hospital Attorney, assured Council that Oconee Hospital is in good standing, and also asked Council to consider the health needs of the county, Council scheduled a meeting the the Hospital Building Committee Tuesday, August 15, 1990 at 2:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Mr. Jack Hirst, CCS Director, informed Council that DHEC regulations were going to require three (3) new monitoring wells at the landfills and closing of the existing two (2) wells at a cost of \$19,541. Council accepted this as information and Mr. Hirst is going to ask for an extension of time for completing this.

CCS

Dr. Earle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that a van owned by the Oconee County Emergency Preparedness Commission be sold to the American Red Cross. (See attached bid)

EPA Vehicle

By consensus Council determined it would be best to wait until the Sheriff could attend a Council Meeting before considering bids for a storage building for his department.

Sheriff
Stg. Bldg.

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that Tribble Construction Co. be awarded the bid for road paving for 1990-91, they were low bid at \$22.90 per ton for recap and \$3.60 for set up. (See attached bid)

Road Paving
Bid

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 5 - 0 that \$1,100 plus tax and freight be transferred from contingency into line item 10 031 00150 00032 Communications operational for a power surge protector for the computer in the Law Enforcement Center.

Sheriff
(Contingency)

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Dr. Earle, approved 5 - 0 that \$500 be taken from contingency and placed in line item number 10 060 00150 00840 Magistrate capital expenditures for carpet for the Seneca Magistrate Office.

Magistrate
(Contingency)

Dr. Earle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that \$3,400 be taken from contingency and placed in line item 017 054 00150 00840 Rock Crusher capital expenditures for a screen to separate the products at the Rock Crusher for testing the stone at the crusher.

Rock Crusher
(Contingency)

Mr. Harper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dyar, approved 5 - 0 that \$3,895 be taken from contingency and placed in line item number 10 007 00150 00765 for replacement of the fire alarm at Lakeview Rest Home.

Lakeview
(Contingency)

The Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee scheduled a meeting Wednesday, August 15, 1990 at 9:30 AM at the intersection of SC Hwy. 37 & SC Hwy 394 to view the proposed manned compaction site.

Committee
Meeting

To Dr. Earle's inquiry, Mr. Crain informed Council that Hubbard Paving was not interested in bidding on county work at this time, if and when his plant mix meets state specifications, the county will be happy to consider their bid.

Hubbard
Paving

Mr. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, approved 5 - 0 that \$298 be taken from contingency and placed in line item number 10 060 00150 00840 capital expenditures for bookcases for the Magistrate's Office.

Magistrate
(Contingency)

Mr. Crain asked that the Council Members think about the wording of the explanation on the Law Enforcement Referendum and let him know at the next meeting what they would like for it to say.

Referendum
Wording

The Local Emergency Preparedness Committee sent the attached memo to Council to go on record as submitting a list of needed equipment for personnel dealing with hazardous materials.

LEPC

Mr. Brandt, County Attorney, offered to give a legal briefing on Log Cabin and the authority under which roads are being named, however due to the lateness of the hour, these were postponed until the next meeting.

Briefing

Adjourn: 10:00 PM

Norman D. Crain / sq

Norman D. Crain
Supervisor-Chairman
Oconee County Council