

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Called Meeting - August 31, 1999 - 10:00 a.m.

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

M I N U T E S

All area newspapers, radio stations and television stations were informed of this called meeting in compliance with guidelines of the Freedom of Information Act.

PRESENT

G. Fred Tolly - District #1
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Chairman Clint Wright - District #4
J. Mike Holden - District #5
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council
Stacey R. Russ - Assistant Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT

Employees of AMR (American Medical Response)

The called meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Conference Room on the Second Floor of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, August 31, 1999 at 10 a.m.

Chairman Clint Wright called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Paul Hubbard, State Director of AMR to give a brief history of their contract with Anderson County to provide emergency medical services for 911 calls.

Mr. Hubbard and other representatives from AMR told County Council that they have lost \$1 million in local operations over the past 1-1/2 years because of

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changes to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement systems and they have discussed the possibility of closing down their emergency medical operations in Anderson County.

Mr. Preston requested an audited financial report of the company's finances. Mr. Hubbard agreed to provide the report as requested.

Members of Council stated that they found it hard to believe that it was possible for eight rural county rescue squads receiving about \$100,000 each a year could remain afloat but a private company could manage to lose so much money. Mr. Tolly stated that AMR had exorbitant rates and then turns over senior citizens to collection agencies that can not pay their bills. Any national company who pays dividends to stockholders should be able to finance its own offices, he said, and he wants to protect the taxpayers of Anderson County, and now they are coming to Anderson County taxpayers to bail this for-profit company out.

Mr. Hubbard stated that they would need additional revenues in the amount of \$676,000 to continue their service.

Council Members and Mr. Preston stated that they would discuss putting the EMS contract out for bid if necessary. All members of Council agreed that they would not give any more money to the company.

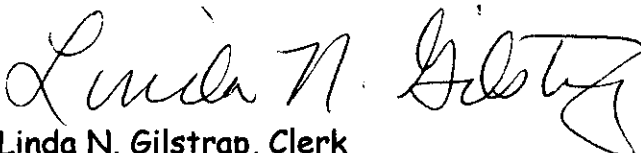
On the motion of Mr. Tolly, seconded by Mr. Holden, Council voted unanimously to go into executive session at 11:15 A.M. to discuss contractual matters.

On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to come out of executive session back into regular session at 11:35 p.m.

Chairman Wright stated that no action was taken in executive session.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL