

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Formal Meeting - September 5, 1978 - 9:00 A.M.
C. Edward Poore - Presiding

M I N U T E S

PRESENT:

Chairman - C. Edward Poore
Members - Joseph G. Wright, III
Fred H. Bratcher
Samuel S. Gerrard
David L. Hooper
Daniel A. Rhodes

Mr. Poore called the meeting to order and Mr. Wright gave the invocation.

On the motion of Mr. Gerrard, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 31, 1978 meeting as mailed.

On the motion of Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to authorize Supervisor C. Edward Poore to locate one acre of land on which a sixteen (16) bed Community Residence Center could be built. This building has been granted to the Anderson County Association for Retarded Citizens by the Department of Mental Retardation.

On the motion of Mr. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to request the County Attorney contact the Treasurer's Office concerning \$14 that was owed to Mr. D. C. Bryson for overpaid taxes.

On the motion of Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution # 59 (Application for A Community Grant for the Morningside Area of Anderson County).

On the motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to designate Lashley and Yates as Architects to prepare the plans and specifications for renovation of the Joseph N. Whitner Building (Courthouse Annex) with instructions that the ultimate cost of the project is not to exceed the amount appropriated in the 1978-79 Budget; and, if the ultimate cost does exceed this amount, then there will be no obligation incurred, financial or otherwise, to Lashley and Yates. The purpose of this resolution is to secure appropriate plans and specifications to enable Anderson County to renovate the Joseph N. Whitner Building for the amount of money appropriated in the 1978-79 Budget.

Councilman Joseph G. Wright, III requested Council reimburse Mr. Eddie Hamby of the Broadway Lake Commission \$323.42 for having carpet installed in the County-owned house at Broadway Lake. Council received his request as information until its next meeting on September 12, 1978 at 7:00 p.m.

A public hearing was held concerning the Sullivan Hardware Company Bond Issue on Industrial Revenue Bonds. Mr. Fred Dobbins and Mr. Charles T. King commented.

Mr. Wright made a motion that the Animal Shelter's budget remain as it is. The motion died for lack of a second. On the motion of Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to authorize Dr. William Mack Burris to deduct \$6,000 from the money he turns in to the General Fund for operational use at the Animal Shelter. Councilmen Fred H. Bratcher, Samuel S. Gerrard, David L. Hooper, and Daniel A. Rhodes voted for the motion. Councilman Joseph G. Wright, III voted against the motion.

Councilman Joseph G. Wright, III stated the following comments concerning Resolution # 58 (Civic Center Auditorium) that was adopted by Council at its meeting on August 15, 1978:

"This Resolution was passed while I was out of the State on active duty with the National Guard. It is a matter regarding the Civic Auditorium which I've been most interested in since I've been on Council. As I understand it, certain conclusions were reached at the meeting, or at least, reflected by Resolution # 58; and, because this is a vital issue to the citizens of District 6, I feel it is appropriate for me to express my opinions and feelings on this Resolution in the same language that I would have used had I been at the County Council meeting.

It is my opinion that the conclusions reached by Resolution # 58 - that the costs of operation along with building costs having to be generated through general obligation bonds - is wrong. I think that there is a good possibility, if we act immediately, that we can receive a Federal EDA grant hopefully for fifty percent (50%) of the construction costs. The financial study issued by the Planning and Development Board also noted that there is a good possibility for a hundred percent (100%) Civil Defense grant for the basement. There is also the option of utilizing a seat tax and income generated through concessions to retire a Revenue Bond for the balance of the construction costs.

In my opinion, and this will take a good deal more study than what's been done so far, a Civic Auditorium could be built without a tax increase. I feel that if Anderson County built a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) Civic Auditorium, anyone that knows anything about real estate knows that property developers will be clamoring to develop the land around the Auditorium. I'm not in favor of the County selling any land, but I do think the County can issue ground leases to cover a major portion of the costs of the Civic Auditorium; and, the income derived through ground leases and leases of the Auditorium would more than affect the operation costs. This, I think, is a distinct possibility and probability.

I had hoped that the next step for Council would be to apply for the aforementioned grants. I cannot understand an attitude whereby the Civic Auditorium is just put on the shelf without a proper consideration for a vast number of citizens of Anderson County - their interests, their wants, and their needs.

I understand that one of the biggest problems facing our Country is taxes, and I would not be in favor of building a Civic Auditorium if it caused a tax increase. However, I don't think it would cause a tax increase because of the reasons that I've mentioned.

I do think a Civic Auditorium will be built in Anderson County - it may not be this year, it may not be next year, it may not be within five years - but, one is going to be built; and, in my opinion, the action taken by County Council lost Anderson County an EDA grant and including the increased costs of construction, this decision cost Anderson County taxpayers over three million dollars (\$3,000,000).

I'm totally in disagreement with the decision, and I'd like my comments reflected on the record. I don't want to criticize any other Council member for his vote; but, since I was unable to comment on the Resolution at the appropriate time, I am commenting today.

One other matter. In my opinion, the reason that the Civic Auditorium was

killed by County Council was because some people fear that it may have been placed on the ballot in November as a bond issue. I don't think it should be. I think it's ridiculous for it to be. We are not at a point now to determine how much money would be received from grants. I do feel that the reason the Civic Auditorium was killed was because of the five million dollar (\$5,000,000) bond issue Council is considering issuing for road repairs. I was originally in support of a road bond issue; but, because this Council is placing such a disproportionate emphasis on roads to the detriment of other worthwhile projects, the vast majority of citizens in District 6 would not support a referendum for a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) road bond issue. Accordingly, I will oppose it also.

Thank you Mr. Chairman."

On the motion of Mr. Bratcher, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to award bids for one van ambulance to Anderson Fire and Safety at an amount of \$17,528.16.

On the motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of two extrication tools at an amount of \$11,314.62.

Mr. J. Marc Hehn requested Council appropriate monies from the Contingency Fund to settle the following vehicle accident: On August 23, 1978 an uninsured Anderson County backhoe damaged the front of a 1971 Dodge Pickup registered to Mr. Herbert Taylor. Estimated damage was \$93.00. On the motion of Mr. Bratcher, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to settle this accident.

On the motion of Mr. Gerrard, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to receive a road in Chateau Road Subdivision into the County system.

Council recessed for five minutes.

On the motion of Mr. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

County Council met in Executive Session and received legal advise from Mr. Robert P. Lusk concerning the Assessor's Office.

On the motion of Mr. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Gerrard, Council voted unanimously to go into Regular Session at 11:29 a.m.

Mr. Poore stated that County Council had received legal advice concerning the Assessor's office during the Executive Session and that no action was taken.

On the motion of Mr. Gerrard, seconded by Mr. Hooper, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:31 a.m.

Gerlinda E. Witcher
Gerlinda E. Witcher, Clerk
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL