

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Emergency Meeting
Called Meeting - March 11, 1988 - 5:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk

M I N U T E S

A CALLED MEETING OF THE ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1988 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - ROOM 109. CHAIRMAN JAMES M. COX, JR. PRESIDED.

PRESENT

Chairman Jimmy Cox, District #1
David L. Hooper, District #2
Robert L. Wiles, District #3
Ernie Garrison, District #4
David Watson, Administrator

Members of the EMS Commission

Robert King
Greg Shore
Odis Burgess
Hayward Hewell
Brad McGuire, Board of Directors -
Anderson Rescue Squad

Mr. Holden was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Cox called the meeting to order and informed everyone that the emergency meeting was called due to the news that Squad 1 was completely down and there was no rescue squad coverage for the City of Anderson.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Robert King to explain the problem with Squad 1. He said that because of the lack of equipment and the inoperable equipment, Squad 1 had to close down and Mr. Greg Shore was trying to cover Squad 1 calls.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Brad McGuire, to speak. He said due to the continuous break-downs and the emergencies they run, the equipment is not suitable for operation. The equipment has been deteriorating over the last year. The EMTs and Paramedics are scared to run because the vehicles are unsafe and if they answer a call and something happens which causes a patient to be injured or die, they will be held liable. Their job is to save lives and with the current condition of the vehicles they are unable to do this. Their financial statements are in the red, they need money, donations and they need help from the County. They also need two (2) new ambulances and two (2) good back-ups. They do not have the money to fix the ambulances

if they break down. They are in the process of reorganizing.

Back in September, 1987, Council asked Squad 1 to give Jack Crowe a list of repairs needed on their ambulances and have Mr. Crowe get the ambulances repaired. Mr. McGuire presented this list to Council at the meeting.

Mr. Cox said he was interested in the coverage over the week-end for the City of Anderson. Mr. Shore suggested that the Council look at paid people. He said he accepted the ambulance under the pretense that Squad 1 would stay up and he could back them up when they were out on a call. He said the City of Anderson was too big to depend on volunteers and he could not continue to be a primary provider without assistance with the staff he has right now which is 17 full time employees. Mr. Shore said with ten to fifteen thousand dollars a month, he could put the extra personnel on and have the extra coverage or the County could hire enough people to answer the metropolitan area and he could be the back up system and answer the non-emergency calls. He cannot continue to be the sole provider without some assistance.

Council asked Mr. Robert King to take the responsibility of coordinating assistance from the other squads to cover all the calls Anderson Ambulance cannot handle.

Mr. Garrison said he appreciated Mr. Shore's willingness to help during an emergency like this and appreciated the other squads filling in. The problem has not been solved and would urge the committee Council asked to look into the problem to come back with a name as soon as possible so something can be done by budget time.

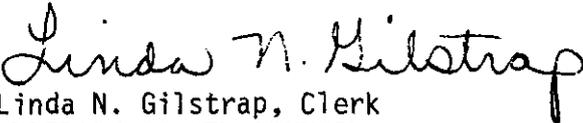
Mr. Wiles explained that he would like to assure the EMS Commission that they have the authority to straighten the matter out or give the authority to come back with a recommendation to Council. Council discussed the commission having no authority over the squads. Mr. Hooper said no matter what system is put in, the EMS Commission needs total authority over the squads.

Mr. Garrison said he wanted to spend a lot of thought in coming up with a viable solution for the EMS situation.

Mr. Cox moved to direct the EMS Commission to study the present situation involving Squad 1 and come back to Council within 30 days with a recommended plan of action drawing on the resources of the Committee which has been formed by this Council to deal with such. Mr. Hooper seconded and vote was 4-0. The other squads operating will help Mr. Shore cover the calls.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL