

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Called Meeting - December 11, 1984 - 4:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk

M I N U T E S

A CALLED MEETING OF THE ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 1984 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 109. CHAIRMAN ROBERT L. WILES PRESIDED.

PRESENT

Fred G. Alexander, District #1
Prue L. Gilreath, District #2
Robert L. Wiles, District #3
Daniel A. Rhodes, District #4
A.M. "Al" Lynch, District #5
Billy D. O'Neal, Administrator
Joseph G. Wright, III, Attorney

Mr. Wiles called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Mr. Alexander gave the invocation. Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Wiles explained that the meeting was called primarily for a review of the county's tax collection and then called on Mr. O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal asked Mr. Bob Daniel, with Greene, Lindley & Company, to go over the area concerning tax collection in the 1983-84 annual audit. Mr. Daniel reported that property taxes on automobiles owed to Anderson County at June 30, 1984 were \$1,268,554 and are summarized by year on Schedule 28 of the audit report. The taxes owed on years 1981, 1982, 1983 are of particular concern and need to be resolved. The taxes owed for 1984 are current taxes and are not yet a problem. The primary problems are the S.C. law on new car purchases, duplicate tax notices on new car purchases, and incorrect mailing addresses. Under S.C. law, the car dealers can get the tags and within 120 days the taxpayers have to pay the taxes. Until September, 1984, delinquent tax notices on automobiles were not sent out. They would recommend a program that will automatically send delinquent tax notices out. Duplicate tax notices on new car purchases - During the past few years the Auditor's office added new car purchases to tax files from affidavits from car dealers. The same information was entered from listings prepared by the S.C. Highway Department. The Auditor's office changed their procedure and this should keep this problem from recurring. Incorrect mailing addresses - The mailing of delinquent tax notices resulted in a high percentage being returned. They would recommend that the Auditor's office assign personnel to work with the Treasurer's office to correct the mailing addresses. Other property taxes: Property taxes on all property except vehicles owned to Anderson County at June 30, 1984 were \$2,781,814 and are summarized on schedule 28 of the audit report. The primary problems in this area and recommended solutions are as follows: 1. Property transfers - Recommend a computer program written that will show the previous owner and address beside the new owner and address for all property transferred for that year. 2. Incorrect mailing addresses - Recommend that County Assessor's office assign personnel to work

with the County Treasurer's office to correct the mailing addresses. 3. Delinquent tax execution date and penalties rate - Recommend, if permitted under the law, to adopt a tax execution date of January 15 and a penalty rate of 15%. 4. Legal procedures for sale of property - Recommend that the County Attorney, County Treasurer, and the County Administrator meet with attorney Joe Allen to establish the collection procedures for the final step in the collection process to put property up for sale.

The Council heard from County Treasurer Betty Smith who said she did not object to a resolution supporting the selling of delinquent property as the final steps to collection. Mr. Lynch moved that the Council, showing support of the Treasurer's office, with information furnished by her and auditor, proceed and cooperate with Ms. Smith and Ms. Prince with the sell of property of those who have made no efforts to pay their taxes. Mr. Rhodes seconded. Vote was 4-0, with one (1) abstention. Mr. Gilreath abstained. Mr. Gilreath said that he could not vote to do something that he hasn't seen, read or studied; therefore, he abstained from voting.

Mr. Gilreath moved that the county employ one more person for Mrs. Smith, beginning January 1 to assist with the tax collection efforts. Motion died from lack of second.

Mr. Gilreath presented a nuisance ordinance for council's consideration on first reading. He moved that the ordinance be approved. Mr. Alexander seconded. Council discussed the ordinance. Council heard from attorney Billy Epps on the ordinance and others. Mr. Rhodes moved that the ordinance be tabled. Mr. Lynch seconded. Vote was two (2) in favor (Rhodes, Lynch) and three (3) against tabling (Wiles, Gilreath, Alexander). Vote on the motion to adopt was three (3) in favor (Wiles, Gilreath, Alexander) and two (2) opposed (Lynch, Rhodes). Motion carried.

Council heard from concerned citizens at this time.

On the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, Council voted 5-0 to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act the following news media were notified concerning this called meeting.

Contacted on December 10, 1984

Anderson Independent - Martha Reinke - 2:02 p.m.

The Journal - Sharon Crout - 2:05 p.m.

Greenville News - Bob Pasley - 2:10 p.m.

Easley Progress - Martha Rhyme - 2:11 p.m.

Belton News - Sarah Sharpe - 2:16 p.m.

WRIX - Matt Phillips - 2:15 p.m.

WANS - Tommy Smith - 2:15 p.m.

WAIM - Kelly Garret - 2:15 p.m.

Paul Brown - 2:20 p.m. - Channel 7

Randy Travis - Channel 4 - 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda

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