January 7, 1957

Town of Central

MINUTES **South Carolina** MINUTES

The Town Council held their regular monthly meeting on Monday Jan. 7 at 6 P. M. The following were present: S. C. Carson, Mayor; Councilmen C. B. Bryan, C. B. Lesley, J. G. Center, F. E. Young and J. J. Canup. Chief of Police N. E. Lawrence met with the Council.

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of the December meeting were read. F. E. Young made a motion that the minutes be adopted J. G. Center 2nd this motion and the Council were in agreement.

The first discussion was the fire hose that is needed for our fire truck. The bids from Poe and Eureka were read. Poe was low bidder. The Mayor appointed Mr. Young and Mr. Canup to check with the firemen and to see what is needed. After this whatever is needed will be ordered. To get our fire needs up to the requirements is going to cost a good sum of money. The Council agreed with the above.

A round table discussion on the cemetery followed. The cost of lots in the Eden survey on August 1, 1955 was set at $7.50 per single grave space and in the Cumbie survey at $12.50. Later all lots were raised to $20.00 per single grave space and no difference is listed in the two survey's. Mr. Stevenson is in the process of making new maps and the Mayor suggested we wait until the next meeting to decide anything definite on this. Anyone wanting a lot in the Eden Survey before next meeting the price will be $7.50.

Mr. Carson brought before the Council about seeing Mr. Williams to get a Patrolman for Central. C. B. Lesley moved that Mr. Carson see him and also Mr. Morris, our state senator.

Financial statments were given to each member, along with their checks for the quarter. Financial statment of theCommission was read.

Mr. Lawrence expressed his appreciation for the gift certificate. He also wanted the Council to know he is getting lots of complaints on Newton's Cafe. We have no ordinance against Public Nuisance. Mr. Lesley says we should have an ordinance against something beside Public Nusisance as this is hard to convict anyone on. Mr. Lawrence has heard that Mr. Newton is going to move to Black's building which is out of Town. The Council after a discussion agreed that something would have to be done. Also a discussion on a child under 18 years of age playing pin-ball machine. If a child is playing one of these machines, lock up the propreiter. C. B. Lesley made a motion that we adopt ordinance abolishing all dancing in the business district. J. G. Center 2nd this motion and the Council voted unamiously. Mr. Lawrence also brought to the attention of the Council that 10 or 15 birds that never work and sleep all day come out about the time he gets ready to go in. Mr. Acker said there is no legal action to stop this.

Mr. Acker came down to give us advice on our telephone system. Mr. Carson brought him up to date on all happenings.

At 7:30 Mr. Coker and Mr. Monroe, co-owners of Home Telephone System in Simpsonville, their attorney, Mr. Maybank; Mr. Tom Folger, owner of

Central Telephone Company, his attorney, Mr. Geroge Grantham, citizens Jim Bearden, H. R. Holliday, R. B. Smith and Carl Griffin met with the Council for a discussion of selling Central Telephone Company.

Mr. Carson brought out the facts that are known and happening about our telephone and that Southern Bell had an option on this system.

Mr. Grantham gave the following talk. First that Southern Bell entered into an agreement with Mr. Folger. Mr. Folger gave the Independent Company opportunity to buy but they did not take this up, so Southern Bell had an option for a period of 1½ years. They had this option renewed every three months. Finally they did not exercise this option and at this time Mr. Coker and Mr. Monroe negotiated to purchase the system. They are going to put in ultra-modern dial system. We were in doubt as to their work but after visiting Simpsonville we had no worries about this. Simpsonvill in 1945 had 60 telephones, they now have over 1000 in operation. The Home Telephone Company plans to spend $300,000 here and will have better equipment than Southern Bell has in other towns. Today the Council went down to look over the system in Simpsonville and were very much impressed and the people are pleased. They visited an industrial plant there. You asked about extended service to Liberty and Clemson. First you need a good modern system in Central then extended service. Clemson and Liberty then would be happy to extend to Central. The rate pay would be more for each class of service than in past. In surrounding towns they pay approximately double. One party line would be raised $3.50 or $4.00 Business lines slightly more.

Mr. Coker was aked if he would like to say anything at this time and he stated that Mr. Grantham pretty well covered everything. He read the rates for Clemson.

Mr. Carson told everyone to ask what questions they wanted answered. Please state question briefly and answer likewise.

H. R. Holliday: The rate given by Mr. Coker included extended service. Would rate be cheaper for just Central?
Mr. Coker: That is correct, but Public Service Commission will set the rate.

Mr. Wallace: What is our rate and how much will it be when new system is complete?
Folger: Now $4.00 Business, $2.50 Resident, but rate will be set by Public Service Commission.

Wallace: We would be buying a pig in a poke and not know what rates are.
Grantham: The rates will be in line with Southern Bell.

Wallace: How could another Independent give us better service than Folger?
Smith: If you started at Central and then could not extend.
Grantham: The cost of a small cell is .16 to .23 cents and Southern Bell is anxious to cut this out.
Smith: Would extending be left to the Town or System?
Coker: In Simpsonville civic organization got this up. If we started it they would think we were only wanting to go up on rates.

Holliday: If Clemson did not want to tie on with us would they have to?
Grantham: No.

Wallace: Will Southern Bell cooperate with an Independent?
Grantham: Yes, that has been proven with Mr. Folger.

Wallace: If someone came and built a million dollar plant we could not pay toll?
Grantham: Public Service Commission does not allow this.
Monroe: It will be based on Southern Bell rates and will be in line.
Coker: The Commission has rates and prices on everything. They do not let you do this.

Holliday: Will there be enough telephones to justify this high price equipment?
Folger: They thought so or they would not want to do this.
Maybank: There will have to be a survey made.
Folger: Two years ago in the immediate city limits over 100 additional phones were needed and wanted.
Monroe: The first thing that will be done is to make a survey.

Wallace: Are they better magician than Folger?
Monroe: Come over to Simpsonville and see our system.

Maybank: Do not compare with Mr. Folger, compare with Southern Bell. They are more in shape to come here and get loan.

Wallace: They will have to borrow money?
Maybank: They will borrow part of it. If someone wants a phone it will be installed in a few days. They have multi-party line and the one you dial is the only one that rings. Southern Bell does not have this. Extended service is no problem.
Folger: I feel that the only way to serve all the people is a modern dial system.

Carson: We recognize that Mr. Folger is one of our outstanding citizens and that he would not push anything down our throat.

Griffin: At present time we have 5 lines for long distance.
Folger: We have seven lines.
Griffin: Quiet often there is no circuit to get long distance.
Coker: That is no problem, you will be furnished enough to take care of all people if it takes 50. We are now putting in 40 lines to Greenville from Simpsonville and 9 out of Greenville.

Wallace: Who owned Simpsonville before Bell?
Coker: Continental Telephone Company, not us.

Acker: If you give as good a service as Southern Bell, how can you operate more econimically than them.
Coker: We do not have their high salaried men. They have numerous managers, engineering staff, and if one town's rates go up all of them do.

Acker: You get more efficiency?
Coker: Yes.
Grantham: The system in Simpsonville is more modern than Greenville.
Monroe: Simpsonville system is only 5 years old, but we have $69,000 material on order now to be installed.

Smith: Southern Bell admits your system is equal to theirs, but I am interested in knowing if we are going to be able to get out of Central or be bottled up here?
Monore: We will give you what the people want.
Maybank: Simpsonville and Fountain Inn wanted extended service and got it.
Grantham: If you have a good system, other towns will want to come in. Southern Bell are glad to cooperate. The Home Telephone will pay for the expense and cooperate with a civic organization to get extended service. A vote of 85% will automatically get you extended service. So if Clemson and Central voted 85% you will get this.

Smith: Will Southern Bell and Clemson be as interested as if it was their own company?
Grantham: Yes, Simpsonville and Fountain Inn have proved this.
Monroe: If Southern Bell had the system, the people will still have to be polled.

Smith: My concern is getting out of Town on free toll.
Grantham: Simpsonville is going out on both side and have no problem.

Lesley: If Southern Bell owned the system, could they connect with Clemson?
Grantham: No.

Smith: I realize this but Southern Bell sent out cards.
Griffin: You have to poll 80 or 85% to get this service?
Grantham: If you poll 80% you have to have a hearing before the Public Service Commission. If you poll 85% there is no hearing .

Carson: How much longer than Bell will you be on completing system?
Folger: Southern Bell said they would complete within two years.
Coker: We would complete the system as soon as we could put an engineer in, and when he had worked up the system and given us the material list to put on order.

Carson: Will you outline the procedure on this?
Coker: First the engineer, it will take 30 days for all engineering and paper work. This gives us what to put on order. Then equipment goes on order and it takes 12 months to get a switchboard made to specification.

Carson: Will the loan hold you up?
Coker: It is ready as soon as we need it.

Carson: Then there is no loss of motion?
Coker: The only holdup would be the delivery of equipment.
Grantham: You would have a modern system in 12 months.
Coker: We would start immediately on outside work and modern office building.
Grantham: Southern Bell had opportunity to move in and did not take this offer.

Griffin: What was the holdup - the price?
Folger: No.

Holliday: Is it true that Southern Bell can not come in if Independent has bid?
Grantham: Yes, but at the time of their first option, no Independent was interested.

Grantham: Southern Bell could not get switchboard before you?
Coker: Not on order, they might could pull an old one. You have to have a certain switchboard for a certain job. If you live on one side of town and had a telephone, then moved to the other side you would have your same number.

Grantham: How long will equipment last?
Coker: We build for 10 years growth, but you can hardly estimate this, sometime you have to put in plant and add to it in less than that.

Lesley: If you trade for this would it be possible to start with the man that had no phone and fix up one for him?
Maybank: No, if there is not any open lines.

Folger: The system is loaded, there are no open lines.

Wallace: What do the people think of the system in Simpsonville?
C son: All we talked to were satisified with the service.
Griffin: We talked with several people and they were very much satisfied. I met up with a personal friend of mine and he had just moved from Greenville. He said he could not ask for better service. His phone only rings when he is called. Then we went to the Texize Plant and Jack Greer. They moved from Greenville and could not tell the difference.

Acker: What do you expect from the legal standpoint from the Town?
Grantham: Franchise. Mr. Folger has _____ franchise. The Public Service Commission would like to have the Council happy. If the group approves the Public Service Commission will be satisfied. How did you feel about this system?
Young: I don't know much about telephones, but this system looked good.
Carson: I feel the same as Mr. Young.
Griffin: I changed my opinion by going down and looking over this system.
Lesley: I was definitely against this until going down, then I completely changed.

C son: How long will it take you to comple this system compared to Bell?
Coker: If Southern Bell had an option for 1½ years, we can't get much slower than this.

Carson: Bell says they have plans already drawn up.
Monore: We will make maps and do the same.

Carson: In talking with Mr. Lackey of Southern Bell, he sys they are out of the picture unless we petition them again.

Coker: You will get trade out of us. Bell does their own business, they even have their own insurance company.

Lesley: Will we have a service man in Central?
Coker: We will have someone here. Will have an office girl to take calls and collect. If it takes a man here we will put one here.

L Jley: What if a phone is out of order?
Coker: A man will be here in 30 minutes or 1 hour, if they are in Simpsonville.
Monroe: We give the best of service. If central calls for one man or 2 men, they will get it.

Maybank: Mr. Coker was in the electrical business until he got into the telephone business.
Coker: We can't start to work on the system until we have the equipment to work with.

Holliday: All the old equipment in town will be torn down?
Coker: Mr. Folger has a lot of new poles, the ones we can use will be used but the rest will be torn down. If someone who lives 1 mile from phone service wants it, then they will get a telephone.

Griffin: Do you have anyone in Simpsonville that wants a phone but can't get it?
Coker; No, not in our territory.

Lesley: Mr. Coker, did I understand right, this is your only job?
Coker: Yes.

Carson: Will you put all this down in black and white?
Coker: No, only satisfactory service. If you have a complaint you get in touch with the Public Service Commission.
Maybank: One person can have Home Telephone brought up for a hearing.

Holliday: Is it true that Norris and Cateechee, Norris is now on Bell, will be tied on to Central lines.
Folger: Yes, Bell will turn this territory over to us.

Bryan: How far can Home Telephone go?
Folger: We have no map, but did have Norris, Cateechee near Camp Creek, Back to 18 mile creek toward Highway 88, and to the sub station toward Clemson.
Coker: It is to your advantage to have as much territory under Central as you can get for business reasons.

Carson: I knew the territory was small, that was why I was dubious of an independent.
Monroe: You have as much area as Simpsonville by having Cateechee.

Wallace: I think we need better telephone service, but if we have an Independent, I had rather have Tom, but if Tom wants to get rid of it, these men are fine with me.

Monroe: We have plenty of circuits.

Wallace: How many operators in Central?
Monroe: None
Coker: If someone in rurual area wants line and it is out of base rate, they have to pay so much per 1/4 mile from that distance. This is standard procedure with everyone.

H. R. Holliday: About five years ago we talked with Bell about 4 and 8 party lines to serve where I used to live, it was the same as what you are going to install, but it would have cost considerable more. How much more, by your installing this equipment, will it cost us.?
Monroe: It will not cost you more. Your rates would be in line with Bell. Our cost is more, but yours is not. If bell put this in at Clemson, everyone would want it, but we only have Simpsonville and they already have it.

Holliday: What would happen to this system, if something happened to you Men?
Maybank: The Public Service Commission would see to this system and that it was run right.

The meeting then adjourned.

S. C. Carson

S. C. Carson, Mayor

Attest:
Sara S. James
Sara S. James, Clerk.