SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 21, 1980

Mayor Holladay called the meeting to order at 7:10 p. m. at which time a quorum was present. All members present with the exception of Mr. Furman Hopkins.

The Council room was full of Town citizens for the meeting with that many more outside.

Mr. Al Cumbie, who asked to be on the agenda, presented a request for rezoning for his property located on highway 93 from R-12 to GC and GR, as per plat presented with signature of planning Commission thereon. Councilman Thompson moved that such rezoning be approved. Councilman Evatt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously provided that the published and a hearing held.

The Mayor then told those present that the agenda for the evening was for a budget work session; however since the group was present for the second reading of the budget amendment, which could not be held until duly published in the paper, that council would hear what they had to say, however, he desired to make a statement prior to opening up the meeting.

He stated that the Council had wrestled with this problem of deficit spending in the utility operation for some time. That the problem stems back for about 10 years. The engineers had miscalculated the cost of operation when they recommended to the council that 50% of the water bill would pay for the operation of the sewer plants. Where they errored was that they computed such charges on the total water purchased by Central, not realizing that half of the water was sold to the East Clemson Water District and another portion to the Highway 88 District. As the plants began operation there was a surplus of funds built up prior to bonds payments having to be made. This carried the payments for a few years. Then Council had to use tax funds to subsidize these payments to the determent of other sources. However, as bond payments, cost of operations increased the deficits has grown, to where the town had to borrow last year $100,000 over a 5 year period. Therefore and increase is necessary since deficit cannot continue.

Mr. Jones then asked for permission to make a statement. He stated that he hoped that the group in presentation of their concern over the proposed rates would also offer positive suggestions as to how to meet the utility deficit since a utility operation is a user oriented operation, rather than a service maintained by taxes.

Several members of the group then presented their objections which ranged from:

1. 75% increase is too much at one time.

2. Ask Council what other alternatives they had looked at.

3. Make East Clemson pay their portion of the sewer bill.

4. Concern of number of personnel at the Burgermeister.

5. Whether or not cuts in other areas could be made, ie, sanitation 1 pick up per week, etc.

6. Several comments made to other services which were unrelated, ie; street repair, stop signs.

7. Water rates recently raised.

8. Establishing rates for the elderly especially widows.

Many of the group asked if they had anything to say, stated that they were only present because they were called to be present.

Councilman Thompson, Boyles, Porter and Mayor answered questions as they were raised. After which the Mayor stated that the second reading on the ordinance would be held on June 9, 1980 and expected that some changes would be made in the ordinance, with that all citizens left.

Council then decided to table their study on the budget for a future called work session meeting, probably Tuesday, May 27,1980.

Respectfully submitted,

Barney D. Jones

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Acting Secretary

H. R. Holladay