

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
January 10, 2012
MINUTES

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met on January 10, 2012 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Vice Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Kay Maxwell with the Southern Carolina Alliance, PF Beck with the Barnwell County Airport, Lisa Fermender with Generations Unlimited and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel were also in attendance.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Agenda. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to approve the Minutes of the December 13th Council meeting. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman Black asked if there were any public comments concerning items on the Agenda. There were none.

Updates

Kay Maxwell with Southern Carolina Alliance distributed an update to Council. In the 4th quarter of 2011, the SCA had over 50 meetings with 31 companies and site consultants which produced 12 active projects that are being pursued. Mrs. Maxwell spoke of major projects in each County as well as the initiatives being made to reach new prospects for the region.

- Project Snow
- Commissioned Economic Impact Study for Project based at SCAT Park
- SCA met with AREVA and toured region
- Lead Generation Program Prospects
 - October – SCA met with site consultants in Chicago
 - November – SCA hosted Project Penny
 - December – SCA conducted marketing mission and met with 12 companies

PF Beck with the Barnwell County Airport distributed an update to Council. In 2011 there were 2 minor projects mandated by DHEC.

- In the 1st project the Airport paid \$15,000 to have test wells dug to determine if a chemical toluene was present. Testing did not show toluene but showed a different chemical. DHEC determined that the Airport needed to spend an additional \$10,000 to dig more test wells at which time DHEC would begin funding out of a SUPERB fund. Airport later received a letter from DHEC postponing their previous directions due to a lack of funds in the DHEC SUPERB fund.
- 2nd project involved a DHEC mandate that all airports have a written Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan on file for 2011. The Airport contracted Talbert & Bright for \$14,747. The FAA was to reimburse \$10,000 of this but has not done so due to the FAA's budget not yet being funded by Congress.

For 2012, Mr. Beck said that following plans were underway.

- Spray a taxiway with the polymer sealant as done at the Barnwell County Airport in 2009 with the SC Aeronautics paying 75% and Airport paying 25%. The FAA would pay 95% of the Airport's 25% portion.
- Additionally, the SC Aeronautics Division was interested in using the Barnwell County Airport as a test site to spray runway 523 with the same sealant and would pay 75% of the cost. Mr. Beck said he would be in contact with the FAA to determine if they would pay 95% of the Airport's 25% portion.

Council discussed the estimated costs of these projects and stressed that nothing should be done until the FAA confirmed that they had the funding and would cover the 95% of the Airport's 25% portion.

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report, gave an update of the Court's roster for the month and said that training had begun on the new CSF system.

Administrator Williams included an update in the Council packet and noted the following:

- The Building and Grounds Department had replaced the floor registers and painted the trim in the Council Chambers.
- The Fire Coordinator and the Fire Commissioner have been working with Pierce Mfg on the truck for the Long Branch Fire Department. Land suitable for a fire substation in the Snelling Fire District had been located and contact with the owner was being made to ascertain its availability. In coordination with Kelley Communications, the fire radios will be narrow banded in January 2012.

In response to Councilman Houston's question, County Attorney JD Mosteller confirmed that he had sent the letter regarding redistricting to the Justice Department.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Houston moved to appoint Wanda L. Platt to the AXIS 1 Board, for District 29, Seat 5. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion.

Councilman Sloan moved to appoint Michael Northcraft to the AXIS 1 Board, for District 29, Seat 7. Councilman Houston seconded the motion.

Councilman Kenner moved to re-appoint Bobbie Williams to the At-Large seat on the Career Center Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Houston and it passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to re-appoint Councilman Houston to serve on the Southern Carolina Alliance Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Buckmon and it passed.

Finance, Government, Housing, Judicial, Personnel, Safety and Transportation Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said that the Bond Anticipation Note listed as revenue under "Other Financing Sources" exaggerated the bottom line of account 470 Misc Revenue making it appear that the revenue was at 155%. Councilman Sloan said that the County had 6 months to determine budget amendments that would be needed.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said he had spoken with Dobbs and the sale of the Hospital and the bankruptcy proceedings were progressing. Councilman Sloan noted that in addition to the \$450,000 already budgeted for the Hospital, the County had also already advanced an additional \$400,000 to the Hospital.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith asked Lisa Fermender to update Council on the financial difficulties Generations Unlimited was undergoing. Ms. Fermender said that their Medicaid Contract had been cancelled but would be in effect again with a new broker by February 23rd. She said that public transportation ridership had doubled and she has requested funding of approximately \$200,000 from the Department of Transportation. If the DOT allots funding it would be 80 % and would require a 20% match. She said she would receive an answer from the DOT by the end of January.

Closing Comments

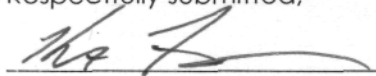
Councilman Jowers said that City Attorney Tom Boulware and Mayor Lemon had contacted him to see if the County would give the City relief on the Landfill tipping fees as they would be removing over 100 old buildings in the City limits. Council discussed the waiver currently in effect which has a limit of 10 tons per year. Council referred this matter to the Services Committee to contact the City of Barnwell for more information and bring a recommendation back to Council.

Council determined to have a Special Called Council Meeting concerning the Administration Building on February 8th at 6 pm.

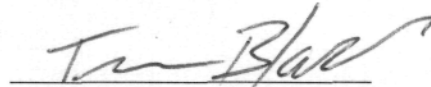
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council/Admin. Asst.



Travis Black
Council Chairman