

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 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 July 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, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., Clerk to Council Kim Futrell and County Attorney J.D. Mosteller. Also in attendance were Sheriff Ed Carroll, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Attorney Ray Jones, Josh Rhodes and Wes Covington with the SC Association of Counties, Marty Martin with the EDC, John Dobbs and Terry Rapphun with Dobbs Equity Partners and Susan Delk with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order, Councilman Smith gave the invocation and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes from the June 12th, June 21st, and July 2nd Council meeting. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comments

Norman Bolen addressed Council about his concerns on the removal of Bamberg County from the Hospital Agreement and the possible change of terms with Dobbs Equity Partners. Rodney Peeples addressed Council stating that the State and Federal Court rulings concerning dual office holding were under appeal. He expressed his concerns over Dobb Equity's stipulation that the Barnwell County Hospital could not be used for anything related to healthcare and the amount of money to be paid yearly to Dobbs Equity for the operation of the Hospital. John Dobbs addressed Council expressing Dobbs Equity's commitment to the County and relayed the many ways the Hospital had already begun to improve.

Updates

SC Association of Counties

Josh Rhodes distributed a packet and updated Council on various SC Association of Counties activities. Councilman Sloan asked if there was a prohibition against the County assessing a utility franchise fee. Mr. Rhodes said he would need research the answer to that question and would contact Administrator Williams with the answer.

EDC

Marty Martin with the EDC distributed a written report and updated Council on the numbers of jobs that area projects in Barnwell had created and compared it to the number of jobs that had been anticipated.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a written report and requested a Judicial Committee meeting be scheduled.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report to Council.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams updated Council on the following: Under Emergency Management, there had been an increasing number of drills including a Ham Radio Drill at the Airport held on the 19th which Administrator Williams attended. Under Fire Coordinator, the pumper truck for Long Branch was in and was ready for service. Fire Coordinator Timbo Williams had spoken with approximately 30 children about fire prevention and safety at the Summer Crime Buster Rural Camp in Blackville and would be taking a fire truck back to the camp. Under Solid Waste, there were 3 community service workers at the Landfill in June. Discussion was held concerning the most cost effective way of recycling plastics.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Councilman Kenner appointed Albert Sept to District 2 on the Airport Commission. Councilman Houston moved to appoint P.F. Beck to District 7 on the Airport Commission. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Smith moved to re-appoint Jeff Still to fill a District 45 position on the Career Center Board. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan re-appointed Don Harper to represent District 3 on the Airport Commission and nominated Jodi Bazzle to represent District 3 on the Generations Unlimited Board.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that an increase in the Local Government Fund had been approved and that contingencies had been made in the Revenue and Expense portion of the budget for affected employees to receive up to a 3 % bonus. Councilman Sloan moved for Council to authorize Administrator Williams to make the necessary budget transfers. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said the FY '10-'11 Audit was almost complete and he expected to have it ready for the August Council meeting. He reviewed the May 2012 Revenue and Expense Statement giving clarification on Revenue Accounts, 400, 420-490 and 420-538 and Expense Accounts 430-540 and 460-626. Councilman Sloan asked that once Administrator Williams received the Audit and Preliminary Management letter from the Auditor, he distribute it to Council and if necessary, schedule a Finance Committee meeting to address any concerns prior to the August Council meeting.

Government, HealthCare, Personnel, Safety, Services and Transportation Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Housing Committee

Councilman Kenner praised the Blackville CDC for their work in the community and said that the Agenda item "Request from the Blackville CDC" was being referred to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner explained the purpose of a Mutual Aid Agreement and moved to approve the Agenda item "Mutual Aid Agreement with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department". Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. On the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, Councilman Kenner moved to approve Proposal 2 on the Agenda item "2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Increase Marriage License Fees" This would increase the marriage license fee to \$45. (\$25 County fee, \$20 Mandatory State Fee). Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Increase Marriage License Fees

This Agenda item was voted on and approved during the Judicial Committee portion of the meeting.

New Business

Mutual Aid Agreement with Beaufort County Sheriff's Department

This Agenda item was voted on and approved during the Judicial Committee portion of the meeting.

Request from the Blackville CDC

This Agenda item was referred to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

The motion passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

A motion was made to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Travis Black
Council Chairman

