

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

May 14, 2013 Council Meeting 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 May 14, 2013 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Sheriff Ed Carroll and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Excessive Noise. There were no comments.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes of the April 9th Council meeting. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

Updates

Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen was unable to attend. Her report was distributed to Council prior to the meeting.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll said that the Sheriff's Department used narcotics funds to purchase another decibel meter making one available for each shift and a phone finder to help locate unauthorized cell phones at the Detention Center. The inmate count was high due to the nature of the crimes and because of non-bailable offenses but should decrease as a term of Court was scheduled. Councilman Creech asked if the Towns would benefit from the decibel meters. The Sheriff said the Department could not enforce noise code violations in the Towns but could assist if the Towns adopted a noise code ordinance similar to the County's. Sheriff Carroll said he would talk with the Towns Councils to request they adopted a similar ordinance. Councilman Creech asked Attorney Mosteller to research and draft a working agreement so that the Sheriff's Department could assist the cities and towns with noise code violations.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said final steps were taken in resolving FAA issues. Proposals responding to the advertised DOE RFP land appraisal would be received on May 31st. The Building and Grounds Dept. would be assisting with the Veterans Park Memorial Service by moving the folding chairs from Councils Chambers to the Park for the service. Jasper County officials met with Emergency Management to observe Barnwell County's EMS and Fire Services operations. The Public Works Dept. had been busy with issues related to excessive wind and rain. The Solid Waste Dept. shipped out 63.72 tons OCC in April and would be shipping out 60 tons in May.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

(Nominated)	Jessie Elmore	Fire Commission #11 for district 5
(Nominated)	Laura Buice	Animal Shelter for district 3 (residing in district 1)
(Nominated)	Kiran Waraich	Recycling Committee for district 3 (residing in district 4)
(Nominated)	Annette Felder	SCRDA (Seat left vacant by Thomas Williams)
(Appointed)	Keith B. Kinard	Building Code Appeals for district 7 (residing in district 4)
(Appointed)	Eve Hogarth	Career Center for district 45
(Re-appointed)	Philip Brown	Building Code Appeals for district 4
(Re-appointed)	John George	Building Naming & Land Use for district 4
(Re-appointed)	Norman Brooks	Zoning Appeals Board for district 3

On the matter tabled from the April 9th Council meeting regarding the seat on the SCA Board, Councilman Sloan reiterated his stance on signing the confidentiality agreement required by the SCA Board and moved that Council appoint someone from the business community or municipality, rather than a Council member, to the seat on the SCA Board. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

EDC, Housing, Judicial, Personnel and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met in April and on May 10th. Another meeting was scheduled for May 17th. He said the budget was between \$300,000 to \$400,000 short in revenues and encouraged Council to attend the next meeting.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the March financial statement giving clarification on revenue item 00400, 00470-00536 and expense item 00403-07003.

Government Committee

Chairman Houston said the Government Committee met on May 14th with the Superintendents and other representatives from the Schools in the County to discuss and receive feedback regarding consolidation. Chairman Houston said the schools were opposed to consolidation and did not feel it would save money. Councilman Sloan said the schools were doing a good job of working together and pooling their resources. Chairman Houston said there would be another meeting with Marty Martin and Danny Black to discuss how the Career Center could be better utilized.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said the County was on schedule for closing on the sale of the Hospital. Councilman Sloan said that the appeal concerning the Courts approval of the Hospital's bankruptcy was summarily denied.

Safety Committee

Councilman Creech said he had met with the Fire Commission in Hilda and said that it would only cost and additional \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a fire station to have a double bay rather than a single bay. Council agreed that it was more cost effective to have fire stations built with double bays as the additional cost was minimal.

Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters Committee and SC RDA Committee

Chairman Houston said that a new industry which would be dealing with the Savannah River Site would possibly be moving into the SCAT Park. If so, policies concerning revenues to the County needed to be reviewed. Councilman Smith said that the SCA needed to apprise Council of any industry dealing with nuclear waste that was considering locating in the County prior to the SCA's agreement with industry to locate in the County. Further discussion was held as to whether the specific industry would have nuclear waste at their site or would be constructing non-nuclear products for the Savannah River Site's use. Council discussed the need for the SCA to meet with Council once a quarter so that there could be clarification as to the types of industries being considered to locate in the County.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Creech said that the County could not save money by having a private contractor maintain the County's roads and moved to cancel the RFP process. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Old Business3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Excessive Noise

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Excessive Noise. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan asked that a letter be sent to the municipalities asking them to consider adopting a similar ordinance.

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between the County and Horsehead Zinc Recycling, LLC.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between the County and Horsehead Zinc Recycling, LLC. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

2nd Reading of FY '13-'14 Budget Ordinance

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2nd Reading of the FY '13-'14 Budget Ordinance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Road Maintenance RFP

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Transportation Committee Report.

New BusinessDiscussion of Implementing a Capital Project Sales Tax

Councilman Sloan said that because the County had a number of capital project needs, he believed Council should move forward in working with the communities to develop a capital projects priority list for 2014. Administrator Williams said that implementing a Capital Project Sales Tax was an involved process. County Council must appoint 3 members to a Commission and Municipalities must appoint 3 members. Both the County and the Cities must request approval for specific itemized and prioritized projects. The referendum would be on the November 2014 ballot. The Capital Project Sales Tax would generate approximately \$1 million yearly. There was a 7 year end date, however the Sales Tax could be renewed by referendum.

Set a Date for the 3rd Reading of the FY '13-'14 Budget

A Special Called Council meeting was scheduled for June 20, 2013 at 6 pm was set for the 3rd Reading of the FY '13-'14 Budget.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

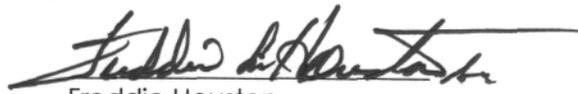
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman