

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

November 12, 2013

Council Meeting Minutes

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

Barnwell County Council met on November 12, 2013 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Vice-Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Lowell Jowers, 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 Clerk of Court McElveen, Danny Black with the Southern Carolina Alliance, Maria Cox Lamm with the SC Department of Natural Resources and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Chairman Freddie Houston was unable to attend.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

Vice Chairman Kenner called the meeting to order, Councilman Jowers 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 Buckmon moved to approve the October 8th Council minutes. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Special Presentation

Councilman Buckmon and Councilman Creech presented plaques to the families of Corporal Douglas G. Maule, Jr., Benjamin Rouse Sr., Leroy Grubbs, Horace Dicks, and Shirley Black who had passed away in 2013 and had served in Law Enforcement or on a Fire Department.

Welcome / Public Comments

Vice Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Anne Rice with the Savannah River Community Reuse Organization (SCSCRO) said there would be an annual meeting in North Augusta on December 4th and urged Council to attend. With the Savannah River site continuing to downsize, she said the work of the SCSCRO was becoming more important and asked for Council's support in the SCSCRO working with the Department of Energy to encourage industry in the area. P.F. Beck gave Administrator Williams a reimbursement check for \$27,000 for one of the two salaried positions at the Airport and updated Council on recent activities at the Airport which included the Corvair College and a Marine training exercise. Councilman Creech expressed his appreciation to the Airport Commission.

Updates

Discussion of Flood Prevention Ordinance

Maria Lamm with the Department of Natural Resources updated Council on the Flood Prevention Ordinance. She said membership in the National Flood Insurance program was voluntary and was an agreement the County enters into with the Federal Government who provides federally backed flood insurance if the County adopts and enforces a compliant ordinance. If the County opted out of the program, property owners would no longer be able to purchase flood insurance and those presently having flood insurance policies would be unable to renew. Property owners with policies tied to a federally backed mortgage, would be required to pay off their mortgages in 30 days or find other financing options. Federal grants or loans such as VA, HUD, and EPA for development and Small Business Administration would not be available in the flood hazard area. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and pre-disaster mitigation funding would still be active but would be limited to outside the flood plain area. Lenders making conventional loans would be required to notify applicants if property was in a flood plain area and would not be eligible for federal disaster assistance. She said the majority of the changes currently underway in the National Flood Program pertained to second homes whose policies were being changed to a full risk rate and the elimination of grandfathering policies. Council Sloan and Councilman Creech expressed concern over passing an Ordinance which could not definitively say which areas of the County may be rezoned during the discovery process. Vice Chairman Kenner asked when the 2010 map would be updated and Ms. Lamm said maps were no longer updated County wide but through a discovery process by Watershed. Councilman Sloan asked if there would be any restrictions on the County re-entering the program later if the County did not pass the Ordinance and Ms. Lamm said the County would be required to prove that it was in compliance with the requirements of the 2010 in addition to whatever map was currently in effect at the time of rejoining the program. County Attorney Mosteller asked what the requirements would be if the County passed the Ordinance and later decided to leave the program and Ms. Lamm said the County at any time could send a written request to be removed from the program. Regarding the time frame allowed to pass the Ordinance, Ms Lamm said the federal law allowed 30 days but that she had already given the County 90 days and a 30 day extension.

Southern Carolina Alliance

Danny Black reviewed the report he had given to Council saying that in marketing the SCA with the Department of Commerce had been to New York, New Jersey, Germany and Italy. An agreement had also been signed with a lead generation company in the Far East dealing with Japan, China, South Korea and Hong Kong. In Opportunity Funding, the SCA was able to reach a \$500,000 dollar for dollar match putting them at \$900,000. The Board had directed that the SCA find ways to use the \$900,000 in each of the counties for economic development purposes. The SCA had met with each of the six counties and the Barnwell County EDC had given them a list of items to invest \$195,000 in. The request was being reviewed and would go before the final Board meeting in early 2014. He said some of the funds were also being used in Workforce Development. The SCA had joined a State coalition that includes agencies representing all areas of the State to develop an energy vision alignment.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court McElveen distributed a report and updated Council on the upcoming court sessions. She said that she would be transferring \$16,000 from the Clerk of Court's budget to help with the cost of the software at the Detention Center.

Sheriff

A written report was provided to Council prior to the meeting. Sheriff Carroll was unable to attend.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Building and Grounds Department had done the annual fire alarm testing in the Administration Building the week of Nov. 3rd. The Business Office had scheduled flu shots clinics at three locations and approximately 35 employees received shots. Under Fire Coordinator, the Public Works Department had cleared a spot for the Hwy 300 substation. A spot had not yet been cleared for the Patterson Mill Road as the County was waiting on a notarized statement from the property owner authorizing the property to be used for a substation. The Fire Coordinator, Building and Grounds and Emergency Management Departments as well as the Williston Rescue Squad were present at the Military exercise held at the Airport. Under Public Works, the parking lot for the Hilda Walking Track had been cleared and was ready for asphalt. The pallet pile at the Landfill, which had been discussed at the previous Council meeting, had been moved to the Class II Landfill to be crushed as removing the pallets to an alternate location to be burned was not permissible.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Vice Chairman Kenner appointed Harry Felder to the Building Code Appeals Board and nominated Sandra Marie Wizorek to the Animal Shelter Board.

Economic Development, Healthcare, Housing, Safety, Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters, SCRDA, and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met to review the budget due to additional funding to various departments which had not been included in the '13-'14 original Budget being extended by the County and that there would be a 1st Reading to Amend the '13-'14 Budget Ordinance later in the Council meeting. He said the Finance Committee would meet in January to review the 6 month budget results and would be asking the Airport Commission to meet to review the Airport's budget.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report for September 2013 giving clarification on account 400 and the percentages of revenues and expenditures to date.

Government Committee

Vice Chairman Kenner extended his congratulations and appreciation to Chairman Houston, Councilman Sloan and Administrator Williams who had traveled to New York for the County Bond Rating and that the meeting had gone well. Councilman Sloan said that Chairman Houston, Administrator Williams and the attorneys had done an excellent job in representing the County and said if the decision was made to go forward, that the bonds would be issued mid December. Vice Chairman Kenner said the Government Committee met on October 23rd concerning Healthcare Reform. Kelley Deitemeyer and Anna Washington provided information on Healthcare Reform and accessing the system and would be available in their offices at 86 Wren Street in Barnwell and 333 Revolutionary Trail in Fairfax to provide individualized assistance. A press conference regarding H. Bill 3290 was held and efforts were being made to oppose the bill.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee had met with the Town of Williston and they were in support of the Drug and Gang Task Force. Councilman Sloan said they had met with the Town of Blackville and were waiting on their response.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said the Personnel Committee planned to meet in November. The following appointments were made to the Grievance Committee.

Councilman Sloan appointed Vernon "Pete" Grady
Councilman Jowers appointed John Boney
Councilman Smith appointed Sheila Black
Vice Chairman Kenner appointed Ethel Washington

Transportation Committee

Councilman Creech said that Curtis Drive and the Blackville parking lot had been completed. The parking lot for the Hilda walking tract was ready to be paved and reviews of bids for the design of Kimberwick had begun.

Old Business2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Multi-County Park Revenues

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2nd Reading of this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jowers and it passed.

Appointments to Grievance Committee

Appointments to the Grievance Committee were made by Council during the Personnel Committee report.

Appointments to Barnwell Facilities Corporation

The following recommendations were made for appointments to the Barnwell Facilities Corporation:

Alfred W. "Bebo" Flynn representing district 29 – Recommended by Chairman Houston and Councilman Sloan.
Bridget Brown representing district 19 – Recommended by Vice Chairman Kenner.
Doug Hogarth representing district 45 – Recommended by Councilman Creech.

New BusinessAppointments to Hospital Board

This agenda item was tabled until the December Council meeting so that it could be determined who was eligible to serve on this Board.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the FY '13-'14 Budget Ordinance

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jowers 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 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



David Kenner
Council Vice Chairman