

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
January 5, 2010**

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 in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 6:00PM in Council Chambers in the Agricultural Building. Those in attendance were Chairman Joe Smith, Vice Chairman Thomas Williams, Councilman Travis Black, Councilman Freddie Houston, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Administrator Pickens Williams, Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Debra Fickling. Councilman Jowers was not in attendance due to illness.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Smith, the invocation was given by Councilman Houston, and a quorum was declared.

Installation of Chairman & Vice Chairman

Outgoing Chairman Joe Smith stated that it had been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Barnwell County Council during the past year. He turned the gavel over to Vice-Chairman Thomas Williams as he was installed as Chairman and Councilman Travis Black was installed as Vice Chairman.

As the incoming Chairman, Thomas Williams stated that he was excited about 2010 and asked for participation in the process of County Government.

Special Presentation

Outgoing Chairman

Chairman Williams made a special presentation to Councilman Joe Smith as outgoing Chairman. Councilman Smith received a Resolution of Recognition for serving as Barnwell County Council Chairman during 2009 signed by each Councilman. Councilman Smith graciously accepted the Resolution.

Williston-Elko Blue Devils Football Team

Councilman Houston and Councilman Sloan presented the Williston-Elko Blue Devils Football team with a Resolution of Recognition for winning the Class 1-A Division II State Championship at Oliver Dawson Stadium on November 27, 2009. Eight team players and the coach were in attendance as Councilman Sloan read the Resolution signed by each Councilman. Coach Garrick and the team players thanked Council for the Resolution of Recognition.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Keith Sloan made a motion to add "Legal Matters" under Executive Session on the agenda. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (December 1, 2009)

Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting as presented. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Welcome

Chairman Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of Barnwell County Council.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Updates

Airport

Airport Commission Chairman P. F. Beck reported on the profit and loss statement for the Airport and was available for questions from Council. Chairman Williams stated that he was pleased with the information received.

SCRDA

Danny Black gave an update from the SCRDA and reported that there had been more internal marketing than usual while recognizing existing industry. The concentration had been with local vendors and Savannah River Site in job creations, and luring businesses related to the facility.

The Alliance is working closely with WESTVACO who is developing a 1,300 acre park in Hampton County. The intention is to develop the mega-site, certify it, and have it marketed as a mega-site which would share revenues with the four counties. The Motley Rice office building has been shown to outside sub-contractors to try to locate them in Barnwell County.

SRS Community Reuse Organization

Rick McLeod stated that their mission was to bring together local communities in DOE/NNSA-impacted communities to share information, establish policy positions, and advocate community interests in order to effectively address an increasingly complex set of constituent, environmental, regulatory, and economic development needs.

Councilman Houston made a motion for the County to send two representatives to serve on the committee. Since Chairman Williams and Councilman Jowers were currently serving in that capacity that they continue serving. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and the motion passed unanimously.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen updated Council on the CMS system and the required training, and stated that the panic buttons were in use.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll gave an update on activities in his Department. Thefts have been up in the county and arrest have been made. The Crime Stompers program is working well. The website is up and running, and warrants are now on the site. During the past week-end, signs have been ruined due to paintballing, and gang-tagging was prevalent.

Chairman Williams commended the Sheriff, the Clerk of Court and Magistrates in keeping the daily population down at the Detention Center.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams reported on GPS units purchased through a grant from Emergency Management to enhance directions for fire trucks when responding to fires. The FM alert units that each councilman received were through a Homeland Security grant at 100%. Each employee will also receive a unit capable of receiving messages regarding alerts throughout the county, as well as incimate weather reports. Citizens will be able to purchase these units through Radio Shack in the future. The signal is sent through FM radio stations.

There have been some dirt road challenges due to the rainy weather. Reedy Branch convenience site was regraded and recyclable material is being sold as prices increase.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Kenner appointed Shirley Taylor from District 2 to the Grievance Committee. Ms. Taylor resides in District 2.

Economic Development

No report

Finance Committee

No report

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reported that the Revenues and Expenses for November were included in Council packets. Pickens expanded on recycling and landfill fees. The Detention Center line items are showing a reduction as a reflection of inmate population being down.

Government Committee

Councilman Smith reported that the Government Committee met with the Clerk of Court and the Chief Magistrate to discuss the CMS system. The deadline for the Towns to respond to participation will be February 11, 2010.

Health Care Committee

An update will be given during Executive Session.

There was a motion from the Health Care Committee authorizing \$150,000 to be withheld from December Hospital tax collections to pay toward the \$475,000 loan to the Hospital, \$250,000 from January collections, and the balance of \$75,000 to be withheld over the next three to four months. As part of this motion, Councilman Sloan suggested that Administrator Williams be given authority to adjust the numbers as necessary. Councilman Sloan also stated that the Hospital was in agreement with the terms. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Housing Committee

Councilman Kenner stated that he would be attending a Home Consortium meeting with Lower Savannah Council of Governments on Wednesday.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Black reported that the Committee met regarding the old portion of the Detention Center. A recommendation was made from the Judicial Committee to have the necessary study performed regarding the placement of the new facility and to hire SCN Architects for the Detention Center project. After a survey site (storm water drainage) is completed, then a topographical survey would be done.

Councilman Black made a recommendation to authorize \$2,500 for a topographical (storm water drainage) survey. After the topographical survey is completed, then Council would vote to proceed. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Services Committee

No report.

Safety Committee

No report.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston read the resolution supporting the upgrade of US Hwy. 78.

Old Business

Resolution Supporting the Upgrade of US Hwy. 78

Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the resolution supporting the upgrade of US Hwy. 78 and to send a copy of the resolution to Lower Savannah Council of

Governments and Aiken County. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the 2nd reading. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #2000-155 Related to At-Large Members of the Planning Commission

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the 3rd reading of the Ordinance to eliminate the At-Large members of the Planning Commission. As their terms expire, they will not be replaced. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation Concerning Repayment of Advances to the Hospital

Councilman Sloan reported that this had already been addressed.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt Building Codes

This was the first reading and it was approved in name only.

Approval of Contract and Resolution Related to 2009 DOE PILT

Councilman Houston made a motion to accept the contract and resolution as presented. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Community Objectives

Councilman Sloan made a motion to adopt "Community Objectives" presented by Stroudwater Capital regarding healthcare delivery and the minimum standards that must be met. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Councilman Sloan made a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel matters and legal matters. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve actions proposed by a letter dated November 19, 2009 which was discussed in Executive Session at the December 1, 2009 Council meeting regarding specific employee salary actions that had been included in the revised budget for the year '09-'10. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councilman Sloan	X	
Councilman Smith	X	
Councilman Kenner	X	
Councilman Black	X	
Councilman Houston	X	
Chairman Williams		X

The motion passed.

Councilman Sloan made a recommendation to authorize Chief Magistrate Flynn to assign up to five (5) hours of additional work hours to employees working 35 hours per week and ten (10) hours of additional work hours to the employee working 30 hours per week to assist in an investigation. The trainer would be allowed to work up to 45 hours weekly as assigned. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Closing Comments

Councilman Sloan made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,


 Thomas L. Williams, Chairman
 Barnwell County Council


 Debra D. Fickling
 Clerk to Council