

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
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 September 13, 2011 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. Also in attendance were Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Sheriff Ed Carroll, Attorney Ray Jones, Kaelyn Pfenning and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel as well as news media from channels 6 and 12.

Public Hearing to Receive Comments Concerning Re-districting Needed for Council Seats as a Result of the 2010 Census

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing to Receive Comments Prior to the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Maps

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing to Receive Comments Prior to the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Agreements to Provide for the Sale of Assets Owned by Barnwell County, SC and Comprising a Portion of the Barnwell County Hospital; and Other Related Matters

Judge Peebles presented Council with a petition listing 945 names. Councilman Jowers moved to suspend Rule 5.10 of time and order extending the time limit for Judge Peebles to speak for 30 minutes providing the persons listed on the petition waive their right to speak and doing so would be out of order. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Council received comments from the following people concerning the sale of the Hospital; Mayor Lemon, Jim Kearse, Georgia Fields, Johnnie Ruth Grubbs, Barbara Wilhelm, Donnie Weeks, Eva Chapel, Dr. Gibson, Don Alexander, Mr. Framp Beasley, Representative Hosey, Tim Moore, Karen Dixon, Judge Peebles, Patricia Wright, Ronnie Hair, Stephanie Bale, Buddy Darnell, Nancy Knopf, Vicky Glover and John Darnell. Reasons cited for opposition were; the possibility of the new Hospital being located in Bamberg County leaving Barnwell County without a local 24-hour emergency facility, the possible negative impact on growth in population and industry in Barnwell County if there were no local hospital and if bankruptcy were filed.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, Councilman Houston gave the invocation and Chairman Black declared a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sloan moved to amend the Agenda by placing the 3rd Reading of the Ordinance Related to the Hospital to follow the Update portion of the Agenda. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes of the August 4th, 9th, 18th, and 22nd Council meetings. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Public Comments

Blackville Town Administrator, Ian Kaiser expressed appreciation for Council's consideration of the Town's compact fund request.

Updates

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report and said that court was held two days in Bamberg County accepting pleas from Barnwell County inmates. She said that the portrait of Judge Inabinet had been unveiled and was being displayed in the courtroom.

Sheriff Ed Carroll distributed a written report.

Administrator Williams said that the move from the Admin. Building was complete. The Building and Grounds Department assisted in the move and made necessary repairs to the new temporary offices. The Engineering Department removed fallen trees due to area storms. Fire Coordinator, Timbo Williams and Business Manager, Debbie Fickling had been working on specs for a new fire truck for the Long Branch Community.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Agreements to Provide for the Sale of Assets Owned by Barnwell County, SC and Comprising a Portion of the Barnwell County Hospital; and Other Related Matters

Councilman Sloan addressed the public and gave extensive information concerning the history of the process that had brought Council to this point. He spoke of the outreach performed to obtain input from leaders and the public, the details of bids received, and the financial history of the Hospital. He said that Council had taken very seriously and had studied extensively the options available concerning the Hospital and believed that the sale of the Hospital was in the best interest of the County. He said that although the demographics indicated that the location of the Hospital would best be suited in Bamberg, the final decision on the Hospital's location had not been made. Councilman Sloan and Councilman Houston addressed possible misconceptions regarding revenue generated by the Emergency Rescue Squad.

Councilman Houston moved to proceed with the sale of the Hospital to Dobbs Equity. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan made the clarification that Council was voting on the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to sell the Hospital. That the agreement still needed to be finalized and approved by the Barnwell County Hospital Board before moving forward. He emphasized that approving the Ordinance would allow that process to continue.

Councilman Houston requested a roll call vote.

Chairman Black-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Kenner-No

Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-No

The motion passed.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Councilman Houston moved to re-appoint Ann Rice to the SRSCRO Board. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. This came as a recommendation from the SRSCRO Board.

Councilman Jowers moved to appoint Vivian Alston to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Board. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. This came as a recommendation from the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Board.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the Finance Committee would meet October 26th at 10 am.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said the Finance Office was adjusting to the new CSI Software Program. He said that the Treasurer's Office was not using the new CSI Software but would be when the audit by the outside auditor was complete. He added that the CSI Software format would need to be changed as it was listing FICA and State Retirement under Departmental Budget Expenses.

Government, Healthcare, Judicial, and Safety Committees

There were no reports for the above committees.

Housing Committee

Councilman Kenner asked Council to consider the community work that the Blackville CDC does and asked that the financial request from the CDC be referred to the Finance Committee. Councilman Sloan affirmed that it would be on the October 26th Finance Committee's Agenda.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee had received information from Attorney Mosteller and would meet in September to compile the information. Once compiled, it would be sent to Council to review.

Services Committee

Council discussed the proposed fee increase from \$65 to \$80 per adoption at the Animal Shelter. There was concern that a fee increase would result in a decrease of adoptions and an increase in euthanasia. Councilman Smith said that the Animal Board would be closely monitoring the numbers. Councilman Smith moved to approve the fee increase. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said the Transportation Committee had met September 12th with a representative from Dennis Corporation. He would be providing prices on the placement of new reflective signs around the County and would be giving itemizations of costs within two weeks. Administrator Williams added that the work on the City of Barnwell Parking Lot would begin within 2 weeks.

Old Business2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Maps

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Maps. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to Re-districting Needed for Council Seats as a Result of the 2010 Census

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Request for Compact Funds

Discussion was held by Council that the request for compact funds was to increase the water capacity for the Town of Blackville. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the request for compact funds. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

2010 Millage Resolution

Discussion was held by Council that the proposed amount for debt service in the 2010 Millage Resolution may be changed by the County Auditor when final mill values are determined. He was expected to have the figures by October. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2010 Millage Resolution. The motion was seconded and it passed.

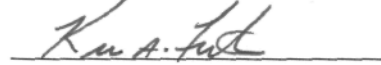
Presentation of the FOIA Information

Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel distributed the "Public Official's Guide To Compliance With SC Freedom of Information Act to Council . This was provided by the Press Association and was updated through June 2011.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Travis Black
Council Chairman

