

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 11, 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 October 11, 2011 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, 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, Marty Martin with the Economic Development Commission, and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Vice-Chairman Freddie Houston was unable to attend.

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

There were no public comments.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

Chairman Black called the meeting to order, Councilman Buckmon gave the invocation and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sloan moved to amend the Agenda by adding a Contractual Matter to the Executive Session of the Agenda. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes of the September 13th Council meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Updates

Written updates for the Economic Development Commission were provided in Council's packets. Marty Martin, with the EDC, said there were several projects that would be announced in the coming weeks.

Sheriff Ed Carroll distributed a written report and said that the Sheriff's Office had received approximately 160 more calls in September 2011 than in September of 2010. He said the Sheriff's Office was continuing to contract with Regents Security at the Hospital for mental patients as it was more cost effective than paying overtime to Deputies.

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report, gave an update of the Court's roster for the month and said that debt set off notices would be mailed in November. She said the CMS system was operating well but that there were issues with the CFF and CSES systems.

Administrator Williams said that he has been talking daily with Robbie Sharpton and David Willis concerning the repairs to the Administration Building and that the fence around the building would be installed on October 13th. He said that the new Cisco phone system had been installed and there were some software issues. He and Debbie Fickling would be meeting with TDS on October 18th concerning those issues. Administrator Williams said he had spoken with Fire Coordinator Timbo Williams and requested that he contact the Hospital when the current contract with North Greenville Fitness expires to see if the Hospital would be equipped to perform the physicals. Administrator Williams said that the Hospital had been contacted in previous years but did not have the necessary resources to do all the testing.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions/Government/Housing/Judicial/Transportation

There were no updates for the above Committees.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the Finance Committee would meet October 26th at 10 am to review the 1st quarter. He said that they would be discussing the Hospital's request and that Administrator Williams would give an update on the audit status.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said that the new financial software was causing the FICA expenses to roll over into the departmental budgets but that they were being manually subtracted by the Finance Department. The software company was determining a way to program the software so that the FICA would be listed separately. Administrator Williams said the reports showed the salaries slightly higher but he believed that the numbers were being rounded up as there were no decimals.

Healthcare Committee

Councilman Jowers said that the Healthcare Committee was trying to determine ways to financially help the Hospital. He said that in addition to the \$400,000 that had already been advanced to the Hospital, there was a request for an additional \$20,000 for an MRI that had been put on hold due to lack of funds. He said he'd received a 13 week forecast from the Hospital indicating they would be \$276,000 short. Councilman Sloan clarified that the \$400,000 advance was in addition to the money already budgeted for the Hospital. Discussion was held by Council concerning whether the Hospital would be able to repay the advances. Discussion was held among Council that bankruptcy notices for the Hospital were being received in the community. It was determined that they were also likely being sent to persons who had served on the Hospital Board.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee had met in September. He said that there were items scheduled for later on the Agenda and asked if those items could be handled during the Personnel Committee Update. The first item coming as a recommendation from the Personnel Committee was a request for waiver of the 60-day temporary hiring freeze. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the request by the Treasurer for a waiver of the 60-day temporary hiring freeze. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Kenner said the next item coming as a recommendation of the Personnel Committee was the consideration of the Public Works Director job description as presented. Discussion was held by Council as to whether the job description should include the requirement of a degree as well as raising the minimum years of experience required. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Public Works Director job description. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Kenner said the proposed changes would be sent to Attorney Mosteller and Joanie Winters for review and after their recommendations, the changes would then be forwarded to council.

Safety Committee

Chairman Jowers said there was an item scheduled for later in the Agenda and asked if the item could be handled during the Safety Committee Update. The item came as a recommendation from the Fire Commission related to a Resolution for firetruck financing on a new pumper truck for the Long Branch Fire Department. The Fire Commission would pay the initial \$105,233.96 and the balance being 3 years by annual payments of \$35,285.09. Discussion was held by Council on how the rotation of the firetrucks would be affected by the purchase of the new firetruck. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the Resolution for firetruck financing. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith said he was working on having the Recycling Committee meet but did not have contact information on many of the members. He asked anyone having contact information on the members, to please contact him.

New BusinessRequest for Compact Funds for Project Hurricane

Discussion was held by Council that the request for \$100,000 was to pay for moving expenses for the company associated with Project Hurricane to move from Miami to Blackville. Councilman Smith moved to approve the Request for Compact Funds for Project Hurricane. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Inducement Resolution for Project Hurricane

Council Smith moved to approve the Inducement Resolution for Project Hurricane. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

1st Reading of an Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Hurricane

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Inducement Resolution for Climax Global Energy, Inc.

Councilman Smith moved to approve the Inducement Resolution for Climax Global Energy, Inc. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

1st Reading of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Climax Global Energy, Inc.

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Related to Firetruck Financing

This Resolution was approved during the Service Committee Update portion of the Agenda.

Request for Waiver of 60-day Temporary Hiring Freeze

This item was approved during the Personnel Committee Update portion of the Agenda.

Consideration of "Public Works Director" Job Description

This item was approved during the Personnel Committee Update portion of the Agenda.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Buckmon and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

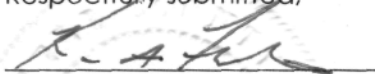
Open Session

A motion was made to enter into Open Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

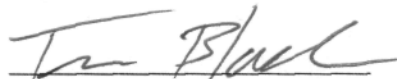
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Travis Black
Council Chairman