

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
December 9, 2014
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 December 9, 2014 at 6 pm for its regularly scheduled meeting. Attending were Chairman Freddie Houston, 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 JD Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Vice Chairman Kenner had to leave the meeting after it was called to order but returned during the financial update. Administrator Williams had to leave the meeting after giving the financial update and did not return to the meeting. Also in attendance were Laura Buice, Denise Elkins, Evelyn Gardner, Curtis Hogg, Shirley McCullom, Shannon Miller, Doris Rosier, Lori Smith and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Public Comments

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes for the November 11th and December 2nd Council meetings. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Council thanked Chairman Houston for having served as Chair on Council for two years and commended him for the job he had done.

Updates

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Minutes, Resolutions, Ordinances, and Agendas from 2010 forward were posted on the County's new website. The Elko fire rating had decreased from a 6 to a 5 effective March 2015. Under Solid Waste, the County has sold approximately \$20,000 of recyclable materials through November. The new company pulling trailers to 3 Rivers was doing a good job.

Committee Reports

Boards & Commissions

Councilman Sloan moved to appoint Tommy Boyleston to fill the At Large seat on the Economic Development Board for District 29. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Economic Development

Councilman Jowers said there were buildings in need of repair and that Danny Black had requested the County use EDC money to have an engineer do a study on the Hanes Brand Building, as well as other buildings, to determine the repairs needed to make them marketable. He estimated the cost of the study to be between \$3,000 to \$5,000. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Financial Update

County Administrator reviewed October's financial report.

Finance, Government, Housing, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, Services, and Transportation.

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Healthcare

Council and County Attorney JD Mosteller discussed a letter supporting the need for substance abuse beds. Mary Valliant with Southern Palmetto Hospital had asked for County Council's endorsement and approval to have the Chair sign the letter presented. Councilman Jowers moved to approve Chairman Houston signing the letter. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said he and Councilman Sloan had met with the Clerk of Court, the Probate Judge, and the Solicitor's office regarding space needs. The Solicitor's Office said they would determine their additional space needs and report back to Council. Councilman Sloan said a possibility had been discussed in which the Solicitors offices could locate offsite, having only a meeting room in the Courthouse to confer with their clients prior to trial. Council discussed various locations for records storage and office space.

Personnel

Vice Chairman Kenner said most of the revised job descriptions were turned in and the Committee would begin review. He requested that Council let him know the Standing Committees they wanted to serve on in 2015.

Councilman Smith asked if elected officials were prohibited from giving lapsed merit increases. Council concurred that they had been. Chairman Houston said increases for lapsed merit were approved only upon recommendation from the Administrator and that the Administrator had said he would not approve the recent request. Councilman Sloan said the salaries listed in the budget were based on the current and previous year's censuses and any changes in the census level would need to be approved by the Administrator in advance. Chairman Houston reiterated that the Administrator had not approved and would not approve an increase.

Safety

Councilman Creech said the Fire Commission had met, were dissatisfied with two mills that the County had taken away and that some of the firemen were requesting reimbursement for their personal expenses during the ice storm. Councilman Sloan said he had heard similar complaints and that he was in favor of reimbursements for expenses if the County had submitted those expenses to FEMA and had received reimbursement. He added that a significant portion of the Fire Department's budget was paid by the County so it would be the County taking the taxpayers money and reimbursing the Fire Departments for the taxpayers money that they had already spent.

SCRDA

Councilman Jowers said a Project continued to progress with a projected \$185,000,000 facility in the SCAT Park and that the Board would be meeting to consider the final version of the project on December 15th. A different Project continued to look at two facilities in the County for their gun accessory operation. The YMCA's anticipated opening was January 10th. There was a potential client looking at the Hanes Brand building and another possible project might be interested in moving into a Blackville building.

Old Business2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Flower

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd reading of the above Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

New BusinessInducement Resolution for Project Flower

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the above Resolution. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

Resolution and Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Agreement with Bamberg County

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the above Resolution. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Resolution Related to Purple Heart Veterans

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the above Resolution. Vice Chairman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

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

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Councilman Sloan moved that the Services Committee follow up on issues with the Animal Shelter and report back to Council as appropriate. Vice Chairman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved that Council accept recommendations of the County Administrator on a personnel matter (regarding a grade level increase). Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. Chairman Houston called for a vote on Councilman Sloan's motion that Council accept recommendations of the County Administrator related to a grade level increase. The motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council



David Kenner, Council Chairman