

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

February 11, 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 February 11, 2014 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance 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 J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Mike Benjamin with Chem Nuclear and David Purtell with the People Sentinel. Sheriff Carroll and Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen were unable to attend.

### **Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum**

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared.

### **Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and the motion passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes for the January 14<sup>th</sup> and the January 24<sup>th</sup> Council meetings. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Welcome / Public Comments**

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting. For the Science, Technology & Regulatory Matters report, Mike Benjamin with Chem Nuclear gave an update regarding the testing, analysis and reporting of the amount of tritium levels at the Chem Nuclear site. Councilman Sloan confirmed with Mr. Benjamin that the intake ponds for the water systems for Jasper and Beaufort Counties, which draw water from Savannah River Site, had never measured any radioactive materials. Mr. Benjamin confirmed that no radioactive materials had ever been found in their intake ponds.

### **Updates**

#### Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll was unable to attend the meeting due to the ice storm. Chairman Houston asked if the Council Chairman needed to declare a disaster in order to be reimbursed by FEMA. County Attorney JD Mosteller said he believed the chain of command in such instances was addressed in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilman Sloan moved that if the chain of command was not addressed in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, that the Council Chairman be authorized to declare a disaster if advised to do by the County Administrator and the Emergency Management Director. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Williston Fire Department had set up a warming station shelter to be used exclusively for motorists stranded due to the ice storm. He said Barnwell County had received a 2013 Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award by the SC Counties Worker's Compensation Trust which was a result of the County receiving safety management awards for the past two years. The Public Works Department had hauled dirt to the substation site on Hwy 300 but had been unable to proceed with building a foundation due to the ground being soaked with rain, snow and ice. In the Solid Waste Department, Detention Center Trustees had been able to assist in picking up wind blown trash which was important as the County could be written up by DHEC if there was litter at the Landfill.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Boards and Commissions

Councilman Creech appointed Gillam Weeks to Generations Unlimited.

Councilman Kenner re-appointed Albert Sept to the Airport Commission and Norma Rockwell to the Recycling Committee. At the request of Ms. Keisler, Director of Tourism for the LSCOG, Councilman Jowers moved to re-appoint Eddie Richburg to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Councilman Creech moved to re-appoint Councilman Jowers to the Southern Carolina Board of Directors to be confirmed at the SCA Annual Board of Directors meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### Economic Development, Finance, Housing, Safety and Services

There were no reports for the above Committees.

#### Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed December's financial report with Council. Discussion was held concerning the disposal of electronics and the tonnage amount of paint being moved from the Landfill. Councilman Sloan said the e-waste matter would need to be addressed in the upcoming budget year.

Government

Chairman Houston read the letter he had received a letter from the Department of Commerce. Councilman Sloan moved that the Department of Commerce be notified that Councilman Creech and Councilman Jowers were presently the contact persons for the Economic Development Commission. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

HealthCare

Council discussed the varying and contradictory comments they had received from the citizens concerning the wait time and services rendered at the Hospital.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee met with the Sheriff, the Jail Administrator, and the architect for the new jail and that revisions were going to be made and that those changes would be brought before Council. Councilman Sloan said that Williston had approved the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Drug and Gang Task Force providing that minor revisions in wording be made.

Personnel

Councilman Kenner said the Personnel Committee met on February 7<sup>th</sup> and were still waiting on recommendations on changes needed to the Personnel Manual due to Healthcare Reform. Councilman Kenner said the policy recommended by the Personnel Committee outlining the use of the tablets by Council was in the Council's packet. Councilman Jowers said that the policy needed to be refined specifically for the use of tablets by Council and needed to be reworded as the policy presented referred to employees and not elected officials. Councilman Sloan said that the tablets needed to be governed by a separate policy. It was decided that Council proceed with the use of the tablets, signing the agreement and using the present policy, until a separate policy could be presented.

SCRDA

Councilman Jowers said this report had been provided to Council.

Science, Technology & Regulatory Matters

The report for this Board was given during the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said the meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather and that he needed County Attorney Mosteller's assistance with right of way on some of the road projects.

**Old Business**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Realignment of the Economic Development Commission

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-Yes  
Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes  
Councilman Kenner-Yes  
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Amendments to the Drug/Gang Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement

Councilman Buckmon said that the Town of Williston and the City of Barnwell had requested the following revisions be made to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Drug/Gang Task Force: On page 2, the word "solely" added following the word "earmarked" and the word "periodic" changed to "quarterly" regarding updates from the Sheriff's Department. Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the requested amendments to the Drug/Gang Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**New Business**Signature Cards for EDC Accounts

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the signatures card for the EDC accounts with the following revisions: Councilman Jowers name be changed to Charles L. Jowers Sr. and Councilman Creech's name be changed to Jerry R. Creech. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Computer Usage Policy

The Computer Usage Policy was referred back to the Personnel Committee for revisions related to Council tablets.

Sale of Charles Street Lot

Administrator Williams said it was recently determined that Lot 49 (parcel no. 072-13-07-49) on Charles Street belonged to Barnwell County. He said the lot had debris on it and recommended that it be advertised for bids and sold as is. After approval of Council, there would need to be 3 readings and a public hearing. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the sale of the lots. Councilman Smith asked for clarification as to whether it was just lot 49 that was being sold and it was confirmed. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Approval of the Transfer of 2.3 Acres to the Airport

Councilman Jowers said there was 2.3 acres sitting within the triangle which was blocking the Airport's ability to install a fence to prevent animals from going onto the runway. JD Mosteller said he had the plat and that the parcel was the rear portion of what was the aluminum finishing building. Attorney Mosteller said the parcel was 13.89 acres but that technically it was not titled to the EDC, but instead, to the City of Barnwell. His recommendation was that Council approve the transfer of the 2.3 acres so that that the matter could be worked out with the City of Barnwell, as the Airport grant for the fencing was in jeopardy. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the transfer of the 2.3 acre tract to the Airport. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion 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 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell  
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman