

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

March 24, 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 March 24, 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 Mayor Beasley, Mayor Lemon, Mayor Stapleton, Tom Boulware and David Purtell with the People Sentinel.

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

### Designation of April 2014 as Fair Housing Month

Councilman Sloan moved to approve this agenda item. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

### Disbursement of Funds from the Economic Development Commission

Administrator Williams requested Council's approval of a banking transaction Resolution for signature authority on an EDC checking account. He also requested approval for the account to be used to pay the following: \$15,046.49 to reimburse School District 29 (this was money that the EDC was holding for them), \$35,591.83 to reimburse the County for fourth quarter salaries & fringe and \$4,370.59 for building insurance the County had paid to the insurance reserve fund for 1/31/14 through 1/31/2015. He asked that he, Councilman Jowers and Councilman Creech be listed as authorized signers on the account. Councilman Sloan confirmed with Administrator Williams that the account balance was approximately \$120,000. Councilman Sloan moved to approve reimbursement to School District 29. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Smith moved to approve reimbursements to the County for the fourth quarter salaries and the building insurance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved that Councilman Jowers, Councilman Creech and Administrator Williams be authorized signers on the account. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

### Consideration of Letter to the DOE

Councilman Jowers moved for authorization of the Chair to sign a letter to the DOE concerning the MOX Projects possibly being placed in "cold standby". Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Mayor Lemon, representing the 3 municipalities, said they were in a better position to manage the properties as they were located in their municipalities and that the response sent by the municipalities, made clear their position on Council's proposed ordinance. Council expressed concern over the municipalities' ability to fund, manage, operate and market the facilities adding that the facilities were the property of the entire County and were obtained through the efforts of Council and through County funding. Council added that the proposed ordinance gave all the municipalities in the County a voice on the Board and that the municipalities still had final authority through their approval or disapproval of industry locating within their municipality. There was further discussion concerning the manner in which the properties were received, the costs of litigation and the way in which the entire County was being perceived by potential industries.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss pre-contractual matters related to property transferred by the EDC. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

### Open Session

Councilman Jowers moved for the County to contract with Southern Carolina Alliance to market Barnwell County Facilities and have the SCA, along with County Council, find and hire a person with Economic Development skills to represent Barnwell County, reporting to Council through the Administrator. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon - Yes  
Councilman Creech - Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes  
Councilman Jowers - Yes

Councilman Kenner - Yes  
Councilman Sloan - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to authorize and instruct the County's attorney to proceed as appropriate the legal recourse and actions with respect to the recovery of Economic Development assets and all monies as necessary. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon - Yes  
Councilman Creech - Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes  
Councilman Jowers - Yes

Councilman Kenner - Yes  
Councilman Sloan - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

The motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kim A. Futrell  
Clerk to Council

  
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Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman