

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

March 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 March 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 Sheriff Carroll, representatives with Southern Disaster Recovery and David Purtell with the People Sentinel. Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen was unable to attend.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was 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 February 6th, 11th and 27th Council meetings. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Updates

Storm Debris Cleanup

Al McLaren, Sonny Simms and Glenn Hitchcock with SDR advised Council on procedures they would use, in conjunction with the debris removal company already under contract with the County, on the clearing and disposal of debris on County roads and answered Council's questions regarding the amount of monitoring jobs being created, the order in which roads would be cleared, the debris disposal process and an estimated end date. Another debris removal companies spoke concerning the services they offered, and the monitoring jobs they could provide.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll provided a written report and gave an update on the status of implementing the Drug Gang Task Force.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said the ice storm had several departments busy. Field agents in the Assessor's Office had been doing damage assessment, Roger Riley in Emergency Management had worked several shifts and Fire Coordinator Timbo Williams had assisted the fire chiefs in completing forms for FEMA. Due to a fire at the Nursing Home, 40 patients were evacuated. The paint clean up at the Landfill was complete. Emergency Management was at risk of losing grant money due to the grant deadline date. Council discussed using the grant money for a truck or other equipment in the Emergency Management so the grant funds would not be lost. Councilman Smith moved for Administrator Williams and Roger Riley to determine where the money could best be spent in the Emergency Management and to use the grant money accordingly. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Airport Commission – Rick Grimes re-appointed by Councilman Jowers.

Axis 1 – Rebecca Dorch re-appointed by Councilman Sloan.

Axis 1 – Ethel Washington re-appointed by Councilman Kenner.

Building Code Appeals – Johnny Williams re-appointed by Chairman Houston.

Generations Unlimited – Patricia Rodgers re-appointed by Chairman Houston.

Library Board – Claudia Peeples re-appointed by Councilman Jowers.

Councilman Sloan asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Nina Grady thanking her for having served on the Planning Commission.

Economic Development

Councilman Jowers moved to do away with the proposal to create a Board involving the Cities/Towns and for Council to appoint 3 Board members; 1 each from Districts 19, 29 and 45; to give SCA the authority to market Barnwell County facilities having Danny Black, along with Council, hire a person to represent Barnwell reporting to Council through the Administrator. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan and Councilman Smith opposed the motion, saying that Council, as well as the municipalities, had been unable to review the revised Ordinance as it had just been provided at the Council meeting. Councilman Jowers and Councilman Creech opposed another delay saying that opportunities for prospective industries were being missed. Councilman Kenner suggested having a Special Called Council meeting to allow time for the review of the revised Ordinance and the Cities/Towns to be contacted. Councilman

Jowers withdrew his original motion and moved to have a meeting on March 24th, allowing time for the Cities/Towns to review the revisions with the understanding that no answer would be an answer and that Council would proceed with his original motion. Councilman Kenner seconded Councilman Jowers' new motion. Councilman Sloan moved to amend Councilman Jowers' new motion in that Council would transmit the revised Ordinance to the three municipalities and schedule a meeting on March 24th with the Council of Government Committees at which time, a response from the Municipalities would be brought back to Council. Councilman Smith seconded the amended motion. Chairman Houston clarified that Councilman Sloan's amended motion differed from Councilman Jowers' in that the Councilman Jowers' original motion would not go into effect but that there would be a vote on the 24th on the revised Ordinance. County Attorney J.D. Mosteller clarified the document being referred to was the revised Ordinance. A roll call vote was requested on Councilman Sloan's motion.

Chairman Buckmon - Yes
Councilman Creech - Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes
Councilman Jowers - No

Councilman Kenner - No
Councilman Sloan - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Smith asked for clarification on Councilman Jowers original motion regarding board members. Councilman Jowers said instead of having 11 board members there would be 3; 1 from each School District. County Attorney J.D. Mosteller confirmed he would prepare Councilman Jowers' original motion and advised it would need a 1st reading if brought for a vote at the March 24th meeting. Councilman Sloan asked that it be given to Council in advance for review.

Finance, Healthcare, Housing, Safety, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, and Services
There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed January's financial report with Council.

Government

Chairman Houston mentioned items discussed at the meeting he had attended in Washington. Council discussed regional development, and the need for better communication between the County, Municipalities, School Districts, and citizens. Chairman Houston requested a Town Hall meeting be scheduled on March 31st at 6 pm at the Williston Town Hall for the Council, representatives from the Municipalities and the citizens to attend to open the lines of communication.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said that he, Councilman Sloan, Administrator Williams, Jail Administrator Charlton and Sheriff Carroll met with the engineer to discuss designs for the new jail. Councilman Sloan said different layouts were reviewed and minor changes were request by Sheriff Carroll and Jail Administrator Charlton. Councilman Sloan said DJJ needed additional space and mentioned the possibility of moving the DJJ to the new jail when built.

Personnel

Councilman Kenner said the Personnel Committee met on March 4th regarding the tablet usage policy and possible changes to the Personnel Manual due to Health Care reform. Councilman Kenner moved to approve the tablet usage policy. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

SC RDA

Chairman Houston said that the SCA had purchased 7 acres of land in Bamberg with possible new industry locating there. Councilman Sloan asked that the SCA provide a YTD financial report with a specific breakdown of how SC RDA funds were being spent in Barnwell and a quarterly financial report also be provided. Chairman Houston said he would provide that information. Councilman Creech said he could provide financial reports from the Airport as well.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said there were legal matters regarding right of ways which County Attorney J.D. Mosteller was working on. Councilman Jowers said that both he and Councilman Sloan were contacted to see if the County could do anything about a road that was in poor condition and it was determined that because it was private property, the County could do nothing about the road. Councilman Sloan said he had asked Stan Holliday with SCDOT to check if something could be done with the crossover which might help alleviate some of the problem.

Old Business

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Realignment of the Economic Development Commission

Councilman Jowers moved to table this agenda item until the March 24th Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed.

New BusinessComputer Usage Policy

This agenda item was approved during the Personnel Committee report.

Resolution Authorizing the Financing of 4 Sheriff's Vehicles

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

Transfer of Funds Held for the Williston/Elko Recreation Center

Chairman Houston said that he was supportive of the funds that had been set aside for the Williston/Elko Recreation Center being used for the YMCA adding that the building of a recreation center in the next couple of years was unlikely. Councilman Sloan moved for Council to seek approval from the SC Budget and Control Board to reallocate to the YMCA those funds being held for the Williston/Elko Community Center. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. 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 de-obligate the funds previously obligated to Project Tissue for grant match to be converted for use of economic development activities in Barnwell County by Barnwell County. The motion was seconded and 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.

Sale of Surplus Vehicles

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

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss pre-contractual matters related to EMS services and the Hospital. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Sloan moved to subsidize Southern Carolina Hospital beginning April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2017 at the rate of \$950,000 a year for EMS services at which time all subsidies would end. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan said this was a modification to the APA which needed to be reviewed by the County and Hospital attorneys. 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.

Discussion was held concerning the use of tablets and the FOIA in that any material pertaining to County business and potential personal emails was discoverable.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman