

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
December 8, 2015
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 8, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers Sr., Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Sheriff Carroll, Deloris Charlton, Mayor Ed Lemon, Erick Diering and Jeff Schoen with Orchid Paper Products, Amanda Sievers with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Daryl Walker with FEMA, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

Public Hearings, Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda & Minutes, Welcome, Public Comments, Resolutions of Recognition and Appreciation.

Public Hearings were held prior to the third reading of ordinances related to water and sewer line easements to the City of Barnwell and flood damage prevention. There were no public comments on the ordinances related to the water and sewer line easements to the City of Barnwell. On the ordinance related to flood damage prevention, Sherman Brady, Roland Brandt, Dale Brady, Patrick Richardson, and Sally Smith spoke in opposition to Council approving the ordinance. The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Creech moved to amend the agenda to include discussion of the jail plans in open session during the old business portion of the meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 10th Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none. Chairman Kenner read the Resolution Recognition for Dr. M.O. Khan on his retirement and contributions to the County. Dr. Khan was not in attendance and could not be presented with the Resolution. Vice Chairman Sloan and Councilman Houston presented a Resolution of Appreciation in Memory of Tom Jackson to his wife, Marilyn.

Updates

Orchid

Eric Diering and Jeff Schoen said that employees would be reporting to work on December 9th and that the plant would be opening mid January with 30 employees. Council expressed their appreciation for the Company hiring local contractors and employing people within the County.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Amanda Sievers said the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan would be expiring December 22nd and that renewal of the Plan was required every 5 years for the County to be eligible to receive pre-disaster grant funding. She explained that the Plan focused on the history of natural disasters which have occurred in the County and enabled the County to prepare for potential natural disasters by awarding grant money to purchase items in advance. Without the plan, the County would be ineligible to receive any pre-disaster grant funding. Council confirmed with Ms. Sievers that the Plan did not impose anything compulsorily on the County or its citizens financially or otherwise. Ms. Sievers said the sole purpose of the Plan was to make pre-disaster grant funding available should the County or its citizens choose to apply for it and was completely voluntary.

Flood Damage Prevention

Daryl Walker said the flood ordinance placed requirements on any new construction within areas of the County which were determined to be in flood zone areas. The intent of the construction requirements was to protect potential buyers and their neighbors by preventing new structures from being built below flood zone levels. In SC, if the flood zones maps were changed at any future point, each County would be given the opportunity to decide whether or not to re-adopt the ordinance. Adoption of the ordinance required those purchasing a home be notified if the property were in a flood zone area and would allow participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) allowing homeowners living in flood zone areas the ability to purchase flood insurance. Homeowners with federally backed mortgages living in flood zone areas are required to carry flood insurance and non-participation by the County would result in those homeowners having their loans revoked by the lending agencies and the possibility of new loans not being issued, as private lending agencies also required flood insurance for properties in flood zone areas. Additionally, homeowners with only a portion of their property in a flood zone area would have the opportunity to contact the NFIP to have their property re-evaluated if the structure on the property was above the flood plain level. The NFIP did not require homeowners without a mortgage or home buyers paying with cash, to carry flood insurance. Failure to adopt the ordinance would also prevent the NFIP from giving any financial assistance to the County or its citizens in the event of a flood.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Carroll said the Sheriff's Department was awarded a \$16,000 grant for a drug detection dog and for training a handler.

Administrator

Administrator Williams said the Assessor's Office was preparing for the aerial flight for the new photos of Barnwell County. The Regional Emergency Manager with State Emergency Management Division was working with Emergency Management Director Roger Riley on a grant. David Holcomb had met with Fire Coordinator, Timbo Williams and had completed the ISO inspection for the County.

Committee Reports

Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, SCRDA, Healthcare, Finance, Personnel, Housing, Transportation, and Safety

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Boards & Commissions

Animal Shelter Nomination of Mollie Harrison for District 7 (Residing in District 5).

Library Board Removal of Carol Padgett (District 4) due to a conflict because of her employment at the Library.

Government

Chairman Kenner said the Committee had met and discussed attempting to implement a Capital Project Sales Tax in 2016.

Judicial

Deloris Charlton, Administrator of the Detention Center, addressed the recent changes made to the replacement jail's architectural plans due to the bid coming in higher than expected. These changes involved removing a wing of the detention center and adding a butler building for inmates awaiting sentencing. Ms. Charlton said that while the changes may save the County money initially, they would result in costing additional money both in staffing and future construction costs as the revised plans were inadequate for the long term. She requested Council's approval to proceed with the original plans which included the wing that had been removed. Council discussed the present conditions of the jail, the likelihood of construction costs increasing and concurred on the need to move forward with the original plans. There was discussion as to whether the County being required to fund the additional portion would cause an increase of the millage rate. Vice Chairman Sloan and Administrator Williams said if the County received a 30 year loan for the additional amount, they believed an increase of the millage rate would not be necessary. Councilman Buckmon moved to proceed with the original jail plans provided that the contractor honor his original contracted cost. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed

Services

Councilman Buckmon said the November 14th Recycling Day event was a success with the pounds recycled by the City of Barnwell at 1,460, Blackville at 991, and Williston at 832. He presented Mayor Lemon a plaque for the City of Barnwell as the recycling contest winner.

Economic Development

Councilman Smith said the phase 1 environmental survey on the Sara Lee Building had begun and that the drums were being removed and inspected. The EDC Commission was receiving resumes for a permanent EDC Director and expected in January or February to be able to present Council the names of three applicants along with the Commission's recommendation for one of the applicants.

Old Business

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Joint County Industrial Park with Aiken County

Councilman Smith moved to approve the 3rd reading of this Ordinance. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

3rd Reading of Ordinances Related to a Water Line Easement and a Sewer Line Easement to the City of Barnwell
Councilman Smith moved to approve the 3rd reading of both Ordinances. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

3rd Reading of a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Councilman Houston moved to approve the 3rd reading of this Ordinance. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Council discussed the need to protect the citizens of Barnwell County by ensuring that homeowners would be able to purchase flood insurance if they wanted to, as well as the County being able to receive FEMA assistance should a disaster occur. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Mobile and Manufactured Housing Ordinance.

Councilman Houston moved to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.


New Business

Resolution Adopting the 2015 Barnwell County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



David Kenner, Council Chairman