

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

June 6, 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 June 6, 2014 at 6 pm in the Barnwell County Library. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, Clerk to Council Kim Futrell and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel. Vice Chairman Kenner arrived during the Executive Session portion of the meeting. Councilman Buckmon was unable to attend.

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

The meeting was called to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Sloan moved 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.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Capital Project Sales Tax

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Related to the Capital Project Sales Tax

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

Discussion of the Potential Sale of Property Transferred by the EDC

Councilman Sloan said Mayor Stapleton had contacted him and they had met with Will Roberson. Mr. Roberson was expanding his business and wanted to lease or do a lease purchase of the Doc Depot building. Both Mr. Roberson and Mr. Leonard, who was already leasing a portion of the building, were agreeable with the arrangement, if approved. Mr. Roberson was seeking approval to begin moving his equipment into the building. Councilman Sloan said this would be an opportunity for Mr. Roberson to proceed with a pending contract, protecting 16 jobs and creating 6 more, while allowing the County to dispose of an older building, generate cash flow, and relieve the County of the costs of taxes, maintenance, repairs and insurance. Chairman Houston suggested that EDC Committee members Lowell Jowers and Jerry Creech meet with Mr. Roberson to discuss his needs and to establish a price. Discussion was held as to whether the County had the authority to approve the sale, as it had not yet been resolved who owned the property and the need for an appraisal to determine the property's fair market value. Councilman Sloan said Mr. Roberson was willing to lease or do a lease purchase and that an appraisal could be done using EDC funds. Councilman Sloan moved that Council advise Mr. Roberson that Council was in support of a lease or lease purchase of the Doc Depot building with the building's value being based on fair market value, that Administrator Williams contact appraiser Danny Creech to do an appraisal with the cost coming from the funds currently being held by the Town of Williston and that the Council Chair send a letter to Mr. Roberson and Mayor Stapleton affirming Council's support. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon – Absent
Councilman Creech - Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes
Councilman Jowers - No

Councilman Kenner – Absent
Councilman Sloan - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

The motion passed. Councilman Buckmon and Councilman Kenner were not yet present.

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.

Open Session

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman