

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 9, 2011
MINUTES

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met on August 9, 2011 in Council Chambers at 6:00 pm. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Vice Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Sheriff Ed Carroll, Marty Martin with the EDC, Kay Maxwell with the SC Regional Development Alliance, Training Specialist Don McLean with Fort Gordon, and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Councilman Lowell Jowers was unable to attend.

Public Hearing Concerning Re-districting

There were no public comments.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

Chairman Black called the meeting to order, Councilman Kenner gave the invocation and Chairman Black declared a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sloan and it passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 14th, June 29th, and July 12th Council meetings with the exception that the June 14th minutes be changed to reflect that Mayor Rivers, not Administrator Carter, read the letter on behalf of the Town of Williston opposing the proposed 40-20-20-20 revenue split in the proposed fee-in-lieu of tax agreement for Project Tissue. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Special Presentations

Don McLean, Training Specialist with Fort Gordon, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Roger Riley, Timbo Williams, and Neal Morris (in absentia) for their assistance with a drill held at SRS in May 2011. Mr. McLean thanked County Council for allowing the utilization of the Airport for training exercises and PF Beck and Cal Hoffman for their assistance.

Updates

Kay Maxwell, with the SC Regional Development Alliance, gave updates on the following projects:

- SRNS Project Corridor
- Project Paris
- Project Brother
- Project Brick
- Lead Generation Programs

Sheriff Ed Carroll distributed a written report and gave the following update:

- The relocation of Dispatch to the new 911 Center is complete.
- The new 911 dispatch system is in operation.

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report and gave the following update:

- Week of 8/1, General Sessions Court will be held - 26 pleas, 10 motions, 9 probations, 4 in Bamberg County.
- Week of 8/14, Family Court will be held - 30 private cases, 5 DJJ cases, 10 DSS cases, 100 rule to show cause.
- On 8/10 Common Pleas (non-jury) Court will be held - 13 motions, 30 cases.
- On 8/11 at 5:30 pm, the portrait of Judge Inabinet will be unveiled in the courtroom and a reception at the Gail Reyes Senior Center will follow at 6 pm.

Administrator Williams gave the following update:

- The Assessor's Office will be moving on 8/10 and 8/11.
- On 8/10, Robbie Sharpton with Facility Consultants will be meeting with Administrator Williams to give a timeline and estimated costs related to repairs to the Administration Building.
- The Building and Grounds Department has been assisting the Assessor's Office and other Departments with the move from the Admin. Bldg. which will result in a significant cost savings with the moving company.
- With the funds of a 100% grant from the State, the Emergency Management Department will be purchasing an ATV equipped with a pump and stretcher, which will enable emergency personnel to respond to areas that are currently unreachable by fire truck or EMS.
- The contract allowing the Red Oak Fire Department insurance coverage under the County's insurance plan is being reviewed.
- There will be a 4'x'8 sign in front of the Admin. Bldg. listing the new addresses of the different departments.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Clerk to Council Kim Futrell said that she has contacted Axis 1 and is waiting for their return call to clarify the current Axis I Board members.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the Finance Committee will be meeting in September or the beginning of October.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said the Finance Office is issuing checks off the new finance system. Councilman Sloan asked the status of the Audit. Administrator Williams said the outside auditor is completing the audit for FY '09-'10. Councilman Houston asked about the Departments providing information concerning budget line items overages and Administrator Williams confirmed that he has the information.

Government, Housing, Judicial, and Safety Committees

There were no reports for the above committees.

Health Care Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the Health Care Committee has been meeting regularly and will be having another meeting during the week of August 14th.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee will be considering scheduling a workshop to review proposed changes in the Personnel Manual.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith said that because of the Federal budget, there has been a decrease in grants available to the Airport.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said the Transportation Committee did not meet in July. Councilman Smith asked the status of Curtis Drive. Administrator Williams said there have been delays due to the first contractor withdrawing from the job and the second contractor having labor cutbacks. Condemnation proceedings have begun to secure the remainder of right-of-way needed. Councilman Houston said the closing date to receive bids for the State's requirement of the placement of more reflective signs on rural roads ended August 5th at 2:00 pm. He said a bid was delivered at 2:30 pm and was returned unopened.

Old BusinessRequest for Assistance from Compact Fund

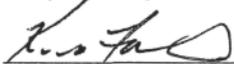
Martin Martin said that bids for the sewer project, which will be assisting the City of Barnwell, have not been sent out. This will not affect the amount of the costs of \$167,085 for engineering design and construction. He said that a utility grant and an EDF Fund application will be covering the costs and that the recommendation of the EDC is that when the City of Barnwell repays the funds, that they be held in a County fund designated for EDF projects. Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve the Request for Assistance for Compact Funds for \$167,085 with the understanding that when the funds are reimbursed, they will be set aside for use with economic development projects. The motion was seconded by Councilman Buckmon and it passed.

Council discussed August 23, 2011 at 6:30 pm as a possible date for Council to meet with Bobby Bower's Office in Columbia concerning re-districting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council/Admin. Asst.



Travis Black
Council Chairman