

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

October 14, 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 October 14, 2014 at 6 pm for its regularly scheduled Council Meeting. In attendance were Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Chairman Freddie Houston, Vice-Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., and County Attorney JD Mosteller. Also in attendance were Danny Black with the SCA and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel. Councilman Lowell Jowers and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell were unable to attend.

### ***Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Public Comments***

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. Councilman Smith moved to approve the minutes for the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and October 6<sup>th</sup> Council meetings. Councilman Sloan seconded motion and it passed. Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

### ***Updates***

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams gave an update on various departments and said an arborist had inspected the oak tree in front of the Administration Building and it had been trimmed due to its dropping both dead and live limbs. A claim would be filed with the insurance company to recoup a portion of the money spent. Council discussed the need for an updated website to provide more information for the public and requested a cost estimate be obtained.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### Boards & Commissions, Government, Healthcare, Housing, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, and SCRDA

There were no appointments for Boards & Commissions and no reports for the above Committees.

#### Economic Development

Councilman Creech moved that County Council members, the Mayors of Barnwell, Blackville, and Williston give depositions of their knowledge of the EDC Board's actions, giving County assets to the three municipalities, and the director and assistant director receiving \$640,000 of Barnwell County EDC funds. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan said that he did not believe Council or the Mayors giving depositions would change public perception, that it may interfere with the ongoing investigation, and that all mentioned would probably be deposed eventually. Attorney Mosteller said that would best be discussed with Attorney Buchanan during the Executive Session portion of the meeting. Councilman Creech said he would table his motion until after the Executive Session.

#### Finance

County Administrator reviewed the financial report with Council.

#### Financial Update

Councilman Sloan said there would be a Financial Committee meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

#### Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said that the room on the second floor of the Courthouse, which the Solicitor's office had planned to use, was unavailable as the Clerk of Court needed the additional space. There was discussion regarding the need to find additional space for the Solicitor's office.

#### Personnel

Councilman Kenner said updated job descriptions from department heads and elected officials were needed by the end of November. Chairman Houston asked that the elected official's salaries be compared to those in other Counties also.

#### Safety

Councilman Creech asked that the Finance Committee give consideration to paving the substations driveways.

#### Services

Councilman Smith asked for input from the public on recycling ideas.

#### Transportation

Councilman Creech said Curtis Drive and the parking lot in Hilda were complete, construction would start soon on Rainbow Drive and Kimberwick and Stagecoach would begin at the start of 2015.



**New Business****Resolution Related to Leasing the "Denmark Tech Bldg" to the YMCA**

Councilman Creech moved to approve the lease agreement with the YMCA at a \$1.00 per year for 25 years. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan moved to amend the motion, by revising the lease to a 5 year lease at \$1.00 per year with the potential of four 5 year extensions so that at the end of each 5 year lease Council could possibly renegotiate the fee per year based on how well financially the YMCA was doing. There was discussion was held regarding the amount of money the YMCA was investing and the need to recoup the loss of revenue. There was no second on the amended motion. County Attorney Mosteller said that the lease had to be revised because it listed the fee at \$1.00 for 25 years, not at \$1.00 per year. A vote was taken on the original motion and it passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Leasing the Denmark Tech Bldg to the YMCA**

This Ordinance was read in name only.

**Resolution Related to the Treasurer Using Setoff Debt Collection**

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

**County Acceptance of Abandoned Road**

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

**Interagency Narcotics Agreement with Aiken County**

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

**Resolution Regarding the Local Government Fund**

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

**Old Business****2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to the EDC**

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-Yes  
Councilman Jowers-Absent

Councilman Kenner-Yes  
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

**Executive Session**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Councilman Sloan moved that the incentive package for Project Flower be accepted. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech restated the motion that was tabled during the Economic Development update. Councilman Sloan moved to amend the motion to have it tabled until the November 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion did not carry. Attorney Mosteller asked if Council was waiving their legislative privilege which was allowed and required by Supreme Court decisions. There was discussion concerning the legal advice received in Executive Session. A roll call vote was requested on the original motion.

Chairman Houston-No  
Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes  
Councilman Jowers-Absent

Councilman Kenner-Yes  
Councilman Sloan-No

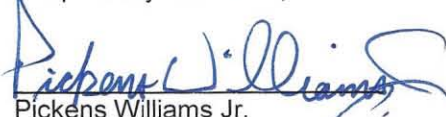
Councilman Smith-No

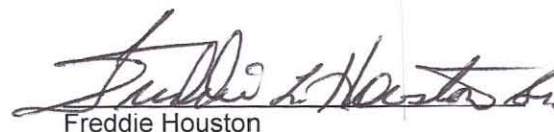
The motion did not carry.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pickens Williams Jr.  
Barnwell County Administrator

  
Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman