

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**April 14, 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 April 14, 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 Danny Black with the SCA, Andre Anderson with the LSCOG, Sheriff Carroll, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

**Public Hearing, Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda & Minutes, Welcome & Public Comments**

A public hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related To Workforce Development. There were no 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. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone and asked for public comments. There were none.

**Updates**

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Carroll said the Drug and Gang Task Force was fully staffed and was making progress. The Department was investigating recent bomb threats at the schools. He and Administrator Williams would be meeting regarding hiring a litter officer.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said bids for the construction of the new jail building would be opened on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Emergency Management participated in a tornado drill at the Barnwell School. ISO inspections were completed at the Hilda and Snelling Fire Departments and an inspection for Barnwell was scheduled. Thirteen firefighters had signed up for the Firefighter II class. Public Works had measured and was obtaining pricing to stripe Fuldner Road and Joey Zorn Blvd. Solid Waste had received grants to replace the recycled oil containers. Councilman Creech asked if the driveways for the Stations on Hwy 300 and Patterson Mill Road would be paved. Administrator Williams said he would confirm with the Fire Coordinator that there were funds in the Fire Department's budget for the paving. Chairman Kenner asked about e-waste at the convenience sites and Administrator Williams said it had been picked up. He had spoken with Billy McAlister regarding including funds in his budget for continued pick up of e-waste.

**Committee Reports**

Boards & Commissions

Councilman Creech re-appointed Walter Creech to the Equalization Board of Appeals, Harold Dean Griffin and Thomas Sharpe to the Fire Commission, and moved to appoint Russell Reed (residing in District 2) to the Museum Board. Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Buckmon appointed Richard Myers to the Recycling Committee. Councilman Jowers said Sally Smith (residing in District 5) had asked to come off of the Zoning Appeals Board and he was appointing her to the Planning Commission. Councilman Houston nominated Chantane Tobin (District 29) and Ann Pernell (District 19) to continue serving on the Axis 1 Board.

Administrator Williams said Cheryl Long with Axis 1 had a list of the term ending dates for the Axis 1 Board and some of those dates have differed with the records in the Office of Clerk to Council over the years. Ms Long's term ending dates were set dates, regardless of whether Council had re-appointed a member when their term expired. If a term ending date was in 2013 but Council did not re-appoint the member until 2015 the term ending date would be 2016 (3 years from when they should have been re-appointed). The procedure of the Office of Clerk to Council would list the term ending date as 2018 (counting 3 years from the date Council actually made the re-appointment). An appointee replacing someone on a seat completed the member's term and was not given a new term ending date.

Administrator Williams asked for clarification on how Council believed the term ending dates for Boards and Commissions should be determined on future appointments. Council said the term ending dates should be set, regardless of when they made a re-appointment. The following term ending dates were adjusted for the Axis 1 Board.

Branna Williams, District 45 - changed from 2016 to 2015  
Joyce Landrum, District 45 – changed from 2015 to 2017  
Michael Northcraft, District 29 – changed from 2015 to 2017

Councilman Buckmon moved that he replace Councilman Sloan on the Three Rivers Solid Waste Board with Councilman Sloan serving the remainder of the year. The motion was not seconded.

Councilman Jowers moved to appoint Councilman Houston to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Board. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said he believed all of Council should rotate on the Board to gain the experience.

Councilman Smith said longevity on the Three Rivers Solid Waste Board, as with the SCA Board, benefitted the Board and the County more than having Council members rotate on and off and he moved that Councilman Sloan remain on the Board. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan said that, although Council's rotation on the standing committees was beneficial for the contacts and experience, appointments to outside agencies, such as Three Rivers and the LSCOG were for the benefit of the County and the County was best served with an appointees longevity and experience on the those Boards. He added that if appointee rotation was needed for the Three Rivers Board, then it should also apply to all other outside agencies.

A roll call vote was requested on Councilman Smith's motion to have Councilman Sloan continue to serve.

Chairman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Creech-No	Councilman Jowers-No	Councilman Smith- Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No	Councilman Houston-No	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion did not carry.

A roll call vote was requested on Councilman Jowers' motion to have Councilman Houston replace Councilman Sloan on the Board.

Chairman Kenner-No	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Smith-No
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Sloan-No	

The motion passed.

Economic Development

Councilman Creech moved that the County begin paying the utilities and assume the maintenance of the former EDC building as Voter Registration would now be located in that building. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan moved to amend Councilman Creech's motion in that all transfers and moves be suspended until a comprehensive plan could be developed looking at all of the County's facilities, determining what impact the moves may have and obtaining cost estimates. Councilman Sloan's amended motion was not seconded. Council discussed the possible purchase of a building that could accommodate the majority of the agencies and the rationale as to why the move of Voter Registration could not be delayed. A vote was taken on Councilman Creech's motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech moved that Administrator Williams hire an accountant to have all the EDC property, assets, and files in order. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan suggested that the EDC's former auditor be contacted to do the audit. Councilman Houston recommended that instead of the matter being referred to the Finance Committee to find funding, it be assigned to the County Administrator to determine where the money would come from to pay the auditor. The motion passed.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed January's financial report.

Finance, Government, Housing, Personnel, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, Safety, and SCRDA

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Healthcare

Councilman Jowers said that Mary Valiant was retiring from the Hospital.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said Voter Registration would be moving to the former EDC building on the 20<sup>th</sup> and would be the only agency moving. The possible purchase of another building would accommodate 90% of the space needs.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said he was continuing to speak with the City and Towns officials regarding increasing recycling efforts. Billy McAlister had information on available grants for the purchase recycling containers but the City and Towns would need to apply for the grants themselves.

Transportation

Councilman Smith said the Williston Project was being put out for bids. Forest Drive to Solomon Price Road to Hwy 70, as well as a portion of Fuller Pond Road, was going to be resurfaced with funding from the local State office.

**Old Business**

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Workforce Area Designation

Councilman Houston moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Ban of Animals within County Buildings.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Vice Chairman Sloan voted no.

**New Business**

Resolution Designating April as Fair Housing Month

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

Resolution in Support of Prescribed Burning

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

Resolution Opposing Mandatory Devolution of State Roads

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Smith 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the '15-'16 Budget Ordinance

This Ordinance was read in name only.

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

**Executive Session**

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 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council

David Kenner, Council Chairman