

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

November 11, 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 November 11, 2014 at 6 pm for its regularly scheduled meeting. Attending were Chairman Freddie Houston, Vice-Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Attending also were Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Matt Mullan with the YMCA, and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel.

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

A Public Hearing was held prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to lease the Denmark Tech Bldg to the YMCA. Lisa Fermender with Generations Unlimited commended everyone for their work in bringing the YMCA to Barnwell County. The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes for the October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> Council meetings. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Matt Mullen, YMCA Branch Director, updated Council on the YMCA's progress.

### ***Updates***

#### Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen distributed a report and gave an update on the terms of Court and the amount of filed cases. Councilman Sloan noted the decrease in cases and requested a breakdown explaining the reduction.

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams gave an update on various departments.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### Boards & Commissions

Chairman Houston said a job description for an EDC director was needed and suggested Administrator Williams, Councilman Jowers, and Councilman Creech meet with Danny Black for his assistance in creating one.

#### Economic Development

Councilman Jowers said the SLED investigation was being reviewed by the Captain and would be sent to the Solicitor's Office. Council discussed the Council Chair sending a letter of inquiry to the Solicitor and/or the Attorney General regarding the status. Councilman Jowers said that the Towns had turned over a check for \$90,000 which were the funds transferred to them by the previous Economic Development Commission and a check for \$91,000 which was for property leases. Council discussed possible guidelines for the County's appointments on the EDC Board.

#### Finance

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Coming as recommendations from the Finance Committee, Councilman Sloan moved for the following:

- That Council advance up to \$18,000 for paving the driveway/parking area at the Hwy 300 substation and the Patterson Mill Rd substation which would be reimbursed to the County by the Fire Commission in FY '15-'16. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.
- That the County engage an outside firm to develop a framework to transition the financial policies to a unified accounting system and solicit an RFP for the cost of implementation. This would unify the Finance Department data with the Treasurer's Office data making the financial statements more up to date. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to accept the FY '12-'13 audit saying the audit had received a clean opinion on its financial statements but was non-conformant on the government wide statements because an audit for the EDC was not done for FY '12-'13. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the creation of a new County website at the following cost: Construction - \$3,000, annual domain fee \$195, monthly hosting and security fee - \$35, additional site work/changes beyond normal maintenance - \$75 hourly. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed. Administrator Williams said money in the pooled interest account would cover the costs.

Financial Update

County Administrator reviewed the financial report for September.

Government, Healthcare, Housing, Safety, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, Services, and SCRDA

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said he would be meeting with the Clerk of Court and the Solicitor's Office regarding space issues.

Personnel

Councilman Kenner said the Personnel Committee had met on November 6<sup>th</sup> and asked that Department Heads turn in updated employee job descriptions. Comparable salary information for elected officials was provided in the Council packet. Coming as a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Councilman Kenner moved to approve that the Personnel Manual be amended to include the Clean Air Policy. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said a bid on Rainbow Drive had been accepted on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Leasing the Denmark Tech Bldg to the YMCA

Councilman Smith moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the above Ordinance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

New BusinessAcceptance of the FY '12-'13 Audit

This action item was handled during the Finance Committee report.

Resolution Related to Interagency Narcotics Agreement with Aiken County

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

Reconsideration of County Acceptance of a Section of New Forest Road

Chairman Houston asked for public comment. A petition with 140 signatures requesting the road continue to be owned and maintained by the State was given to Council. Several citizens said the road was needed as an alternate access and was still in use. Councilman Creech moved that Council rescind their previous acceptance of the road and that it continue to be owned and maintained by the SCDOT. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Sloan moved that prior to any future considerations by Council of closing any road, they would first seek input from property owners living on the road. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Consideration of Finance Committee Recommendations

This action item was handled during the Finance Committee report.

Resolution Announcing Results of Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum

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

Amendment to Animal Shelter Policies and Procedures

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

Amendment to Personnel Manual – Clean Air Policy

This agenda item was handled during the Personnel Committee report.

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 Creech moved to support Head Start as described in a letter presented to Council at the beginning of the meeting. Council Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

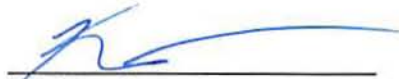
Councilman Jowers moved to approve the Chair sending a letter regarding the Promise Zone. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the Resolution related to deeding 40 acres to project Flower. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell  
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman