

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 14, 2012
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 February 14, 2012 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Vice Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Brian Eisele, Larry Elledge, Marty Martin, Coroner Lloyd Ward, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Lisa Fermender and Kaelyn Pfenning with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order. Councilman Houston gave the invocation. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Smith moved to amend the Agenda by adding "Generations Unlimited Update" after the Clerk of Court Update. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the amended Agenda. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to approve the Minutes of the January 10th and February 8th Council meetings. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any public comments concerning items on the Agenda. Several Barnwell County residents and employees from Generations Unlimited addressed Council stressing the community's need for continued public transportation through Generations Unlimited.

Updates

Congressman Joe Wilson's Office

Brian Eisele, Special Assistant for Congressman Joe Wilson, introduced himself to Council. He said there was a new office in Aiken and added that due to Congressional redistricting, Aiken County was going to be under one Congressional District. He encouraged Council to contact him should they need any assistance.

Polly Best Center

Larry Elledge, Program Director with the Polly Best Center, updated Council on the various services that the Center provides. The Center has one psychiatrist 3 days weekly, one nurse 4 days weekly, two full time adult therapists, two full time child adolescent family therapists, one assessment crisis coordinator and a full time New Hope program. They will also be hiring a clinical coordinator. All therapists are credentialed by the Mental Health Department. The Center works with the Detention Center, the Hospital and makes home visits. Also present was Lucinda McCormack, a child adolescent family therapist. She updated Council on the varied services a child adolescent therapist provides.

SCAC Worker's Comp Trust Award

Administrator Williams said that an Outstanding Safety Achievement award was presented to Barnwell County at the SCAC Worker's Comp. meeting. This award was due to the efforts of Roger, Debbie and Timbo in obtaining, through a 100% grant, an ATV Mule that is equipped to respond to emergencies that occur in previously inaccessible areas. Administrator Williams said he appreciated the hard work of Roger, Debbie and Timbo in putting the packet together.

Economic Development Commission

Marty Martin, Director of the EDC, distributed a written update to Council. He said that the past month had been productive and that there were no industrial buildings left available. Discussion was held concerning two available buildings but their usability was undetermined due to possible contamination.

Coroner's Office

Coroner Lloyd Ward said the Coroner's Office handled 141 cases in 2011 which was a 25% increase from 2010. He said that the office now digitizes both pictures and records but at some point, there would be a need for larger storage of boxed records. He said that the cost of autopsies would be increasing but believed he would be able to stay within budget. He added that he would be requesting a new truck as the present truck was a 1996 and that he had spoken with the Finance Committee about needing a new morgue cooler as the present cooler was over 20 years old.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report and gave an update of the Court's schedule for the month. She said there were 121 filings this January over the previous January. She said the debt set off program had collected \$2,000 to date this year.

Generations Unlimited

Lisa Fermender, Director of Generations Unlimited, distributed a report showing the demographics of those using the public transportation system and reviewed these numbers with Council. Due to ridership increasing in rural counties, funds were available through the SCDOT on a 50/50-operations, 80/20-capital maintenance match basis. She said Generations Unlimited was requesting \$37,000 from County Council for the additional match necessary to draw down the Federal money and that without these funds Generations Unlimited would be required to cut services. Ms. Fermender said she would need to know by February 24th, if the funds were approved. Councilman Sloan requested a report be made available showing the demographics for the previous fiscal year.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said with Plant Vogtle's 2 new reactors being built there would be additional funding available for the necessary regulations but there would be added responsibility as well. He said Roger Riley, with Emergency Management, would have more information during the budget process of the new regulations. In the Solid Waste Department, Administrator Williams said the 8127.38 tons shipped to 3-Rivers through January was lower than the previous year through January. He said he had spoken with Billy McAlister and that when the 150-160 tons of scrap metal is sold, the \$100,000 budgeted amount of revenue would be met. Councilman Sloan said that with the decreased amount of recyclables shipped by Barnwell County and other Counties the tipping fees at 3-Rivers may increase.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

There was discussion among Council concerning an appointment to the Fire Commission. It was agreed that it would be handled at the next Council meeting as clarification as to what seat the prospective appointee would be filling.

Chairman Black nominated Mike Anderson to fill the vacant position on the Planning Commission for District 7. This matter would need to be voted on at the next Council meeting as Mr. Anderson is in Councilman Jowers' district.

Appointment of Rep. Hosey as Ex-officio COG Board Member

Councilman Smith moved to appoint Representative Hosey as an ex-officio member of the COG Board. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met on February 8th and had discussed the Coroner's request for funds for a new morgue cooler. The Committee would need to meet again to discuss the request from Generations Unlimited. He said that the Administrator's Office would begin sending out the budget requests letters to various departments/agencies for budget preparation for the coming year.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said that internal changes were being made to fine tune the Revenue and Expenditure reports. He noted that the 00116 Contingency Funds Account YTD included Admin. Building expenses and that a new account had been added specifically for the Admin. Building expenses which reduced account 00116 to \$14,000. He said that under 00306-07031 (Solid Waste-Equipment Maintenance), the YTD expenditures were over budget which was due to repair expenses on a trash truck and a backhoe. He said that due to the lower tonnages being sent to 3-Rivers the overall Solid Waste Department should still be within the budgeted amount.

Government, Housing and Safety Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said that he and Councilman Sloan were scheduled to meet on February 15th with the Dobbs Group. He said that March 31st had been set for a projected closing date for the Sale of the Hospital. A Hospital Board meeting was scheduled for February 17th at 7 pm.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Judicial Committee had met on February 8th. He asked that the condition of the jail be considered during budget preparation for the new fiscal year. He said that the Solicitor's Office recommended that the \$8,386.71 received from litigation involving the Lending Tree be split equally between the Solicitor's Office and the County. At the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, in concurrence with the Finance Committee, Councilman Kenner made a motion that the proceeds be split equally between the County and the Solicitor's Office with the stipulation that the funds going to the Solicitor's Office be used for security concerns in the Solicitor's Office. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee had met to review the grievance procedure. He said the updated policy would be brought before Council in March. County Attorney JD Mosteller said the question at the last Council meeting was whether appointees to County Boards and Commissions could serve on the Grievance Committee. Attorney Mosteller said he believed that they could and had clarified that to the Personnel Committee at their last meeting.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith said that the City of Barnwell had requested the County waive tipping fees on abandoned homes they would be demolishing. Per Mr. Zawacki the estimated number of abandoned homes over 3 years was 24 with a maximum of 8 abandoned homes being demolished per year. Estimated 50 cubic yards per abandoned home with a total approximate number of 400 cubic yards yearly. Discussion was held concerning the capacity of the Landfill and whether the abandoned homes were block or wood houses. It was noted that a resolution had been passed providing 10 tons per year at no charge from the Cities or churches. This matter was tabled to receive more information and for the City to be contacted regarding their burning the wood on site or contacting a wood chipping company.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said that the Transportation Committee had received a letter from the Town of Snelling concerning a paving request for the Town Hall and was referring that request to Council because the request was coming from a municipality. Councilman Houston moved for Council to approve of the paving request from the Town of Snelling. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved for Council to revise the existing policy so that all future requests from municipalities go directly to the Transportation Committee for consideration. Discussion was held as to the reasons for enacting the policy initially and any further need for the policy. It was noted that the Transportation Committee now used a rating and ranking system for all paving requests. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

New BusinessDiscussion of Special Purpose District for W/E Community Center

Councilman Houston said that for 3-4 years there had been interest in the Williston/Elko community for the construction of a Community Center. He said that while donations had been received, many were only willing to donate once construction began. Councilman Houston said that in order to create a Special Purpose District, Council would need to pass a Resolution/Ordinance approving its creation. He said this district would encompass the Williston/Elko school district only and would not affect other districts. He said that enough

registered voters signatures would need to be collected for it to be placed on a referendum to be voted on. Because of the time frame, Councilman Houston said the referendum would not be brought for a vote until March of 2013 at the next School Board election. Councilman Houston said there would be some cost for legal fees but that money would be reimbursed to the County if the referendum passed. Councilman Houston moved that Council approve the use of \$125,000 previously received from the Budget and Control Board for legal fees to create a Special Purpose District for the Williston Community Center. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. This matter was tabled so that a quote for legal fees could be received and for the Administrator to determine the interest earned on the \$125,000. Councilman Houston withdrew his motion.

Paving Request from the Town of Snelling

Council voted on and passed this agenda item during the Transportation Committee update.

Request from the Solicitor's Office

Council voted on and passed this agenda item during the Judicial Committee update.

Request from Coroner

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Coroner's request of \$10,000 to purchase a new cooler for the morgue. The funds would come out of the Capital Improvement fund. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken during Executive Session.

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

Open Session

Council complied with the Mediation Order for the Administrative Building suit by discussing the mediation hearing in Executive Session.

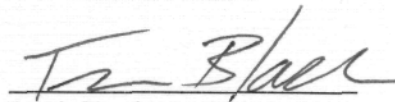
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Travis Black
Council Chairman