

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

April 8, 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 April 8, 2014 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance 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 J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Simon Carlyle with Leidos, Greg Kitchens with Med Shore, James Stewart with Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, Lisa Firmender with Generations Unlimited and David Purtell with the People Sentinel. Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen and Sheriff Carroll were unable to attend.

### **Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes for the March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed.

### **Welcome / Public Comments**

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Lisa Firmender with Generations Unlimited gave an update on the preliminary stages of the progress being made to locate a YMCA in Barnwell County.

### **Updates**

#### Storm Debris Cleanup

Simon Carlyle with Leidos gave an update on the cubic yards of debris/hazard removal to date and the anticipated debris/hazard removals remaining. Current costs with collection, tree removal and monitoring costs was \$2,778,870. The County was responsible for 20 percent, should the State decide against assisting with the Federal grant match. Leidos was working with Denmark Tech. as well as the SC Workforce and most of the monitoring positions were being filled with County residents. The final date to put debris on County roads was April 10<sup>th</sup> with the final pass beginning on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Med Shore EMS

Greg Kitchens said Med Shore began operations on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the transition had been smooth which he attributed to Med Shore's retention of 31 employees from the WRS. He said Med Shore was 1 of only 2 EMS providers in the State that are CAAS accredited and was the largest EMS provider in SC. He said Med Shore's focus for transports would be to the Southern Palmetto Hospital and that Med Shore was interested in beginning an Explorer Scout program in Barnwell County to train students and at the completion of the program, put the students through EMT school.

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams said a meeting was scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> to determine whether the remaining debris chips should be taken to the Landfill or to 3 Rivers as the businesses that had been receiving the chips were unable to accept any more. The highest bid for the Charles Street lot had been received and there would be 1st reading of the Ordinance to sell the lot later in the meeting. Roger Riley met with Med Shore to amend the emergency operations plan. The Hwy 300 substation was under construction and the site on Patterson Mill Road would be cleared soon. There had not response from the letter sent to Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding assistance with debris cleanup in waterways. A group in the area wanted to show appreciation for those that worked during the ice storm and something was tentatively scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Veterans Park which would coincide with the City of Barnwell's firework show.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Boards and Commissions

Generations Unlimited – Jodi Bazzle resigned. Councilman Sloan will make appointment at May 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.  
Museum Board – Jennings Owens resigned. Councilman Jowers nominated Julia J. Woods who resides in District 5. Her appointment will be voted on at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.  
Museum Board – Mary Griner resigned. Councilman Buckmon nominated Sandra Knight who resides in District 5. Her appointment will be voted on at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.  
LSCOG Board – Thomas Williams – re-appointed.  
Workforce Investment Area – Jeff Martin appointed.  
Capital Project Sales Tax Committee for District 29 – Lee Davis appointed / District 19 – Annie Walters appointed.

#### Economic Development, Finance, Healthcare, Housing, Personnel and Services

There were no reports for the above Committees.

#### Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed February's financial report with Council.

Government

Chairman Houston said Council had received a confidential report from SCA prior to the Council meeting listing several prospective new businesses that would possibly be moving into the region.

Judicial

James Stewart with Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects presented plans for the design of the replacement Jail building and said all of the concerns Sheriff Carroll and Jail Administrator Charlton had regarding the layout had been resolved. There would be another meeting and the completed working drawings would be ready in 4 months. The design would require additional Jail personnel, but not many. Borings done prior to the construction of the newer building indicated water was not present, which was in conflict with pictures taken. He said there would be additional borings and that they would use a backhoe to confirm water was not present.

Safety

Councilman Creech said that the Fire Departments were requesting the 3 mills which had been taken from them in 2009. He had given their letter to Administrator Williams and told them the Finance Committee would need to review it.

Science, Technology & Regulatory Matters

Council discussed the need for Barnwell County to take a strong stance regarding industry at the SRS and the insistence for a plan showing the removal of the plutonium stored in the K reactor. Council agreed that Barnwell County needed representation as 67 % of the site and material was within Barnwell County. Chairman Houston said that the meeting scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> had been cancelled and would be rescheduled. Additionally, Chairman Houston said the SCA would be doing a tour of the SRS beginning May 21<sup>st</sup> and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

SC RDA

Councilman Jowers said a written report had already been provided to Council.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said the Committee was frustrated due to the inability to go forward with some of the roads and asked the County Attorney to complete the condemnation process. Council discussed what the County could do in regard to Myrtle Lane which not a County owned road but was almost impassable due to the large pot holes. Administrator Williams was asked by Council to contact Public Works regarding doing a onetime fix so that the road could be made accessible to residents and emergency personnel, if needed.

**New Business**Resolution of Recognition for Mrs. Ethel Mae Sanders

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Resolution of Recognition for Ethel Mae Sanders. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Consideration of Postponing Reassessment until 2016

Councilman Smith moved to approve the postponement of the reassessment until 2016. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Consideration of Design for Replacement Jail Building

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the design presented to Council for the replacement of the Jail building. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Request Concerning Relocation of Graves

This request was coming from the diocese in Charleston for approval of moving of two graves from a Church in Blackville which the diocese was closing to St. Mary Church in Aiken. These graves were 150 years old and attempts had been made to locate family members of the deceased. Required notice had been published in the newspaper. Councilman Smith moved that Council have no opposition to the graves being moved. The motion was seconded and it passed.

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Reorganization of the EDC

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Sell a Lot on Charles Street

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1st Reading of FY '14-'15 Budget Ordinance

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

**Executive Session**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

A motion was made by Councilman Smith to authorize Administrator Williams to pay a \$35,298 final bill for roofing work done by DDP, Inc. on the former Sara Lee building as contracted with the EDC. Payment funds will be taken from the EDC checking account. The motion was seconded and a roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon - Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes

Councilman Kenner - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

Councilman Creech - Yes

Councilman Jowers - Yes

Councilman Sloan - Yes

The motion passed.

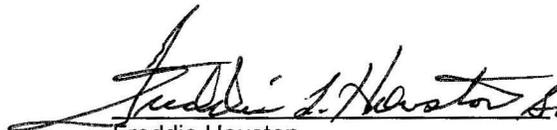
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell  
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman