

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
January 8, 2013
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 January 8th at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, 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 Mr. Michael Benjamin with Chem-Nuclear, John Boney with the Airport Commission, Marty Martin with the EDC, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Sheriff Ed Carroll and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Amending the Land Development Regulations. There were no comments.

Oath of Office

Attorney J.D. Mosteller administered the Oath of Office to Chairman Houston, Councilman Sloan and Councilman Smith. Reverend Farrell Ray administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Creech.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and declared a quorum.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes of the December 11th Council meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any public comments. Michael Benjamin with Chem-Nuclear said that the Chem-Nuclear was being sold to Energy Capital Partners, a private equity group, and that it would take approximately 3 to 5 months to finalize the sale. He said that Chem-Nuclear's annual update was on the SC DHEC's web site. He summarized the findings of the 2012 annual trending report and assured Council that Chem-Nuclear continued to monitor tritium plume levels.

Updates

Airport Commission

John Boney with the Airport Commission distributed a report and said that there had been no major projects in 2012 and that the Airport had paid \$225,000 back to the EDC for the Fuel Farm and 2 land purchases with entitlement funds. He advised Council of drilling that was being required by DHEC and gave a summary of projects expected to be accomplished in 2013.

Economic Development

Marty Martin with the EDC distributed a report. Councilman Jowers asked if NK Newlook was having trouble hiring employees. Mr. Martin said there had been a problem previously, but that the NK Newlook was now pleased with the applicants and had hired 80 employees. He said Crane, who has been experiencing growth, had hired a new HR Director and a VP of Operations and they were pleased with the applicants as well.

Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen distributed a report detail of the filings in the Clerk of Court's Office for December. She said she would be in Bamberg in January for both Civil and General Sessions hearings.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report of his Department's activities during December.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Bond Anticipation Note that Council had approved had not been needed. There was discussion concerning the possibility and legality of offering a percentage reduction in property taxes as an incentive for citizens to pay taxes early. The purpose would be to help prevent the need for the future Bond Anticipation Notes. Administrator Williams said the Emergency Management Department would be having a large decontamination drill with the National Guard in May. In the Solid Waste Department, prices for paper and cardboard were back up to what they had been in 2011 so the paper and cardboard that the Department had been storing would be sold. The Department expected to ship out approximately 12 tractor trailer loads in January. There was further discussion concerning ideas to increase recycling efforts and reducing the amount of shipment to 3 Rivers.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Councilman Jowers nominated Councilman Sloan to the SC RDA Board filling the vacant seat left by Travis Black. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan abstained. Councilman Smith nominated Ada C. Chapel to Axis 1 for district 45, seat 1. Being a nomination, this would be voted on at the February 12th Council meeting. Councilman Creech re-appointed Darnell Washington to serve on the Transportation Committee for district 7. Councilman Smith re-appointed Lu Richardson to the Library Board for district 5. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the nomination of Thomas Crumley to the Fire Commission for district 3. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Economic Development, Finance, Government, Housing, Personnel, Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters, SCRDA and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial statement for November 2012 giving clarification on revenue item 00400 and expense items 119-2018 and 119-4023. He said the outside auditors would be reviewing the FY '11-'12 financial statements at the end of January.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said that he and Chairman Houston would be attending a Hospital bankruptcy hearing in Columbia on January 9th.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner said the Judicial Committee had met in December to discuss the Sheriff's request to assume the responsibilities of the Detention Center. On the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, Councilman Kenner moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Transfer of Detention Center Responsibilities. Sheriff Carroll said that he felt that the Sheriff's Department and the Detention Center being one entity would better serve the County. Councilman Sloan said that the Detention Center employees were County employees and were required to abide by County policies. He expressed concern that because Sheriff Carroll was an elected official, that procedure would change. He encouraged Sheriff Carroll to continue in following County guidelines in regard to Detention Center employees salaries and in regard to their abiding by County policies. Sheriff Carroll said that the Sheriff Department employees, with the exception of cell phone use and grievance procedures, followed the same County policies and it would be no different for the Detention Center employees. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes
Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

The 1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 1982-14 (Transfer of Jail Responsibilities to the Sheriff) was read in name only.

Safety Committee

Councilman Jowers said that Phil Clarke with the Williston Rescue Squad was concerned about EMS services with Resurgence buying the Hospital. He said that he assured Mr. Clarke that Resurgence had indicated they would continue to talk with the Williston Rescue Squad when the contract expired.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith moved to approve the Amendment to the Animal Shelter Policies and Procedures (Hours of Operation). Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Transportation Committee

Chairman Houston said there would be a Transportation Committee meeting on January 22nd at 6 pm.

Old Business3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Land Development Regulations

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Land Development Regulations. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes
Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Creation of a Multi-County HealthCare Park; Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Creation of a Multi-County HealthCare Park; Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes
Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement for the New Quad-County Industrial Park

Councilman Sloan moved to table the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement for the New Quad-County Industrial Park until after the Special Called meeting scheduled for January 10th was held. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

New BusinessIntergovernmental Agreement for Transfer of Detention Center Responsibilities

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Judicial Committee Report.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 1982-14 (Transfer of Jail Responsibilities to the Sheriff)

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Judicial Committee Report.

Amendment to the Animal Shelter Policies and Procedures (Hours of Operation)

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Services Committee Report.

Discussion of Letter from Rep. Sellers Concerning School Resource Officers

There was discussion among Council and Sheriff Carroll concerning a letter from Representative Sellers in which Representative Sellers asked County Council to consider putting a resource officer in every school. Because of budget constraints, Sheriff Carroll said that having a resource officer in each of the schools was not possible. Council asked that Sheriff Carroll provide the estimated cost so that the information could be relayed to Representative Sellers. There was further discussion on measures that could be taken to make schools safer with little to no cost. Sheriff Carroll said the he had spoken with the schools about additional security measures that could be taken to make the schools safer. He said that there would be an "Active Shooter" training course on February 15th at 8 am at school district 45 and that the Sheriff's Department's officers, as well as several teachers from the schools, would be attending the training. He encouraged Council's attendance.

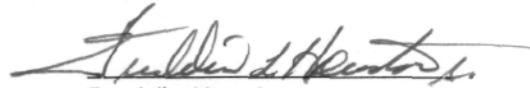
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman