

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
May 4, 2010**

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 in a regular meeting on Tuesday May 4, 2010 at 6:00 PM in County Council Chambers. Those in attendance were Chairman Thomas L. Williams, Vice Chairman Travis Black, Councilman Freddie Houston, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, County Administrator Pickens Williams, Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council LaToya Shuler.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Declaration of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams, the invocation was given by Councilman Jowers, and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes (April 6, 2010)

Councilman Sloan stated that April 6, 2010 minutes should be corrected as follows: Councilman Sloan advised Clerk of Court McElveen to check with the South Carolina Department of Revenue on the time limits for recoupment of funds. Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2010 meeting as corrected. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Sloan made a motion to allow Mindy Sandifer from the Career Center to be added to the agenda after the Sheriff's update. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Welcome

Chairman Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Special Recognition

County Council recognized Mr. Willie Felder, Jr for his 33 years of service to the Blackville School District #19 School Board of Trustees. Councilman Kenner presented Mr. Felder with a resolution of recognition. Mr. Felder retired on April 13, 2010. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Public Comment

None

Updates

City Community Development Director Lynn Cox provided an update on activities for the July 4th weekend and requested permission to use a location near the Sheriff's Department for the Fireworks to be shot from. Ms. Cox has met with the Sheriff's Office and received approval

from the FAA. Councilman Jowers made a motion to approve Ms. Cox's request. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Hospital Update Mary Wisner reported on the following items:

- Dr. Lloyd and Dr. Davis wrote a grant to perform Colonoscopies in Barnwell County. The goal is to offer colonoscopy screening to people who do not have insurance.
- Dr. Ben Clark has been appointed Medical Director of Barnwell County Nursing Home.
- Over the next six months the hospital will be rebuilding charge master with the guidance of Stroudwater Associates.
- BCH now offers Grand Rounds for the Physicians. By using telecommunications the doctors can take part in Grand Rounds at Palmetto Richland, MUSC, and MCG.
- Donald McLean, Training Facility Coordinator for the US Army is setting up a training program at SRS. BCH has agreed to support the program with any medical needs for their soldiers.
- Stroudwater Associates has recommended that BCH become a Critical Access Hospital. A Critical Access Hospital is certified to receive cost based reimbursement from Medicare.

Ms. Wisner introduced Barnwell County Hospital's CFO Starsky Bomer. Mr. Bomer stated that March was the best month for the hospital this fiscal year. The month of March had the lowest amount of money lost. Mr. Bomer stated that his goal is for the Hospital to operate without financial assistance for the County.

Sheriff Carroll stated as a grant requirement for the four SROs, the Sheriff Department will be conducting a Sumer Camp called "Behavior Education-Students Making a Right Turn" (Be-Smart). The camp will be held in the three school districts in the County. The Sheriff has requested that the County help his department with the camp. The amount requested is \$2,230. Council asked Administrator Williams to see if the funds are available from a pooled interest account. Councilman Sloan made a motion that the pooled interest account be used only if the Sheriff's budget does not have funding available. Council Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

As of 2013, Emergency Services Departments will no longer be able to use 25 mhz radios. Federal law states that they must switch to 12.5 narrow banding radios. The Sheriff stated that the effort will have to be in collaboration with each department in the adjoining counties to ensure that emergency personnel will be able to communicate with each other.

Career Center Mindy Sandifer teaches Agricultural at the Career Center. Mrs. Sandifer would like Council's approval to locate a Produce Stand on County land near the Chamber of Commerce. The produce stand is a fund raiser for her class and would also provide summer jobs. Council referred this issue to the EDC Committee and County Attorney Mosteller to determine if zoning will allow a produce stand to be located there. If zoning will not allow the stand to be located in the requested area, they were asked to help find a suitable location, possibly the former Sewell building site.

Administrator Williams reported on the following:

- A new phone system needs to be installed in the Courthouse.
- Health insurance may increase in FY'10-'11.
- A Special Term of Criminal Court will be held this month.
- Road project 2010 will start this month.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Sloan nominated Laura Buice to the Animal Shelter Board. Councilman Houston nominated Franklin Brown to the Transportation Committee. Councilman Smith nominated Lou Richardson to the Library Board.

Economic Development Board

Councilman Smith reported that a company is looking at the Sara Lee facility. The building is currently available for lease or purchase.

Finance

Some agencies have asked for increases in their funding due to higher electrical and water bills. The increases are only requests and a final decision will be brought to the board.

Administrator Williams stated that Ms. Lee Harley-Fitts and Mrs. Charlene Simmons informed him that the utilities at the Richardson Building are increasing. Ms. Simmons is to verify whether there are enough vacant offices available at the Richardson Building to allow the Department of Health and Human Services' staff to move back into the building. Ms. Simmons is to let the Administrator know.

Financial Updates

Administrator Williams has received a cost proposal for software for the Treasurer's Office, Payroll, and Finance.

Government Committee

The contract with Tri County Alliance needs to be updated. The amended contract will be brought to Council for approval.

Health Care Committee

County Attorney Mosteller requested that Council grant Ms. Nancy Porter authority to sign documents related to the Nursing Home as a representative of the Nursing Home. She was given permission to do this upon approval of the Nursing Home Board and the Health Care Committee.

Housing Committee

No report

Judicial Committee

No report

Personnel Committee

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Registration (LLR) has informed the County that the Building Inspector's job description needs to include language related to the limitations of his inspection authority. The changes indentify the inspection limitations of a provisional residential combination inspector. Councilman Kenner made a motion to accept the amended Building Inspector job description. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Services Committee

The 1st reading of the Animal Control Ordinance was in name only.

DHEC, which supplies the County with grant funding to cover most of our cost to dispose of waste tires, would like for each County to approve a comprehensive "Tire Policy". The County has good policies in place now, but the Solid Waste Director has provided a new policy for approval by Council that would enhance current policies and would satisfy DHEC's requirement. After discussing the policy Council requested that the Solid Waste Director provide more information on credits and payments made to DHEC. The item was tabled until the June 1, 2010 meeting.

Safety Committee

No report

Transportation Committee

The Lower Savannah Council of Government Transportation Committee met and a motion was made and passed that the intersection of Highway 78 and 781 be fixed.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Rules of Procedure

Councilman Houston made a motion to amend the Rules of Procedure. The amendment would provide for a roll call vote when requested by a Councilmember instead of having a roll call vote on all matters before Council. Councilman Black seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested;

District 1 – Councilman Houston	Yes
District 2 – Councilman Kenner	Yes
District 3 – Councilman Sloan	No
District 4 – Councilman Jowers	No
District 5 – Councilman Smith	No
District 6 – Chairman Williams	Yes
District 7 – Councilman Black	Yes

The motion passed.

Proposed Legislation Related to Chem-Nuclear Trust Funds

Councilman Houston made a motion for the Chairman to send a letter to Senator Hutto and Representative Hosey to amend the Bill by stating "The funds will be sent to Barnwell County for the purpose of economic development and infrastructure for Barnwell County. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested,

District 1 – Councilman Houston	Yes
District 2 – Councilman Kenner	Yes
District 3 – Councilman Sloan	No
District 4 – Councilman Jowers	No
District 5 – Councilman Smith	No
District 6 – Chairman Williams	Yes
District 7 – Councilman Black	No

The motion failed.

Councilman Sloan made a motion for the Chairman to send a letter to Senator Hutto and Representative Hosey to amend the Bill by stating “the funds will be sent to Barnwell County and Barnwell County Economic Development Commission in equal shares and be used for economic development purposes.” The motion was seconded by Councilman Jowers and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY’10-’11 Budget

The first reading was held in name only.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt an Animal Control Ordinance

See Services Committee

Consideration of Policy Related to Waste Tires

See Services Committee

Executive Session


Councilman Sloan made a motion to enter into Executive Session for potential litigation matters. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kenner and passed unanimously.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas L. Williams, Council Chairman


LaToya Shuler, Clerk to Council

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