

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
February 10, 2015
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 February 10, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, Clerk to Council Kim Futrell, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Vice Chairman Keith Sloan was unable to attend.

Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Minutes, Welcome & Public Comments

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Houston moved to amend the agenda by adding a pre-contractual matter related to the Gang Drug Task Force to the Executive Session portion of the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the January 13th minutes. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Special Presentation

John Henderson, Risk Management Director with the SC Association of Counties, presented a 2014 SCAC Service Award to Roger Riley commending him for his hard work and dedication.

Updates

Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen distributed a report and gave an update on the sessions of Court.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report. Council asked if anything more could be done for litter pick up and prevention. Sheriff Carroll said he would hire an officer that would do nothing but issue litter citations and monitor inmates picking up litter if the County would fund the Sheriff's Office an additional salary.

Barnwell County Career Center

Tim Moore spoke on behalf of the School Consolidation Committee formed to study the feasibility of school consolidation in Barnwell County. Due to financial constraints, Mr. Moore said that full school consolidation was not possible at present but that the school districts and the Committee had spoken with the Career Center regarding utilization of available space at the Center to offer advanced placement classes to students from each of the districts. Associated costs would be shared by all three school districts. Because the Career Center is owned by the school districts and in an effort to streamline the decision making process on courses to be offered, the Committee and the school districts were asking that County Council begin allowing the school districts themselves to make appointments to the Career Center Board. This would also enable the districts to set their own millage rates. Mr. Moore said changes would need to be made through the SC General Assembly but that the Committee was asking for Council's support. Some Council members expressed concern that the relinquishment of their ability to make Board appointments would have a negative effect on the vocational school, particularly in the Center's acceptance of home-schooled and private school applicants. Mr. Moore assured Council that the request for the change of the appointment process was only in an effort for decisions regarding curriculum to be made quickly and was not intended to have any effect on the vocational school. Councilman Houston moved for Council's support of the Committee in presenting their recommendation to the General Assembly. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Absent

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said Roger Riley and Timbo Williams had responded to a train wreck in Allendale County and a fire at the Georgia Pacific plant in Fairfax. In the Public Works Department, The gravel in the YMCA parking lot had been rolled. Construction of Rainbow Drive was continuing. The owner of the subdivision at Kimberwick had been met with to discuss construction plans. In the Solid Waste Department 55 tons of e-waste had been recycled at a cost of \$15,300. Money was budgeted for 13 more tons.

Committee ReportsBoards & Commissions

Councilman Jowers moved to appoint Councilman Houston to the Southern Carolina Alliance Board. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech said the current appointee serving for the at large seat on the Career Center Board had not been attending the meetings and nominated Marsha Wilson to serve. Council asked if anyone had received a resignation letter from the appointee or a letter from the Board's Chair asking that the appointee be replaced. Because nothing had been received, Chairman Kenner asked that the appointee or the Chair of the Board be contacted to see if the appointee was still interested in serving. Council discussed the need for the Committee Chairs to notify the Administrator's Office of inactive appointees so that the appropriate Council member could be made aware.

Economic Development

Councilman Creech said the Economic Development Commission would meet on February 16th to elect officers. Council discussed the need for staggered term ending dates for EDC Commission members so that the terms would not all expire at once. Attorney JD Mosteller said term ending dates were not addressed in the Ordinance governing the EDC Commission. Councilman Houston said it would be simple if each member drew a number to determine the initial term limit for their seat. Council agreed initial term dates of two and three years would be best. Councilman Creech agreed said it would be handled at the February 16th meeting.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed December's financial report.

Finance, Housing, Personnel, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, and SC RDA

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Government

Chairman Kenner asked that Council complete the evaluation form for Administrator Williams and return it to him. He commended Councilman Creech and Councilman Jowers for their work in helping to bring the YMCA to Barnwell and said the grand opening was well attended. Councilman Creech said the Town of Williston was giving the YMCA \$1,000 to fund scholarships.

Healthcare

Councilman Jowers said he had followed up on an allegation that an ambulance was going into Allendale and found it to be untrue.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the Committee was recommending the following moves to allow space for the next 10 years:

New EDC Director would relocate to an available office space at the SCA Building

Voter Registration would relocate to the previous EDC Building

The Public Defender's Office would relocate to the previous Solicitor's Office

The Solicitor's Office would relocate to the Ag. Building into the previous Voter Registration Offices

Veteran Affairs would remain in the office in the Ag. Building and would be able to utilize a vacant office for storage.

DJJ would relocate to the old EOC building next to the Detention Center which would give the Sheriff's Office more space.

The Clerk of Court would take care of the space needs for the Probate Office.

Chairman Kenner asked if all the affected agencies had been contacted, met, and agreed to the proposed relocations. Councilman Buckmon confirmed that they had and moved for approval on the relocations. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

Based upon the Sheriff's update regarding litter pick up, Councilman Creech moved that the County fund the Sheriff's Department the additional funding needed for a litter control officer. The motion was not seconded. Council concurred that the matter would need to be discussed by the Finance Committee and considered in the FY '15-'16 budget.

Safety

Councilman Creech said they had been working with 911, the Sheriff's Office, the hospital, Medshore, and the Fire Department to assure that the ambulances were where they were supposed to be at the proper times. Another meeting would be on February 27th at 10 am.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said that he, Administrator Williams and the Animal Shelter Board met to consider the hiring of a new Animal Shelter Manager as well as problems they were having with the custody of animals in that the Animal Shelter was allowing the Animal Advocates to take animals out of the Shelter without a chain of custody. Councilman Buckmon advised the Board that the Animal Shelter and the Animal Advocates were two separate agencies and that when an animal was removed from the Shelter, a "Chain of Custody" form needed to be completed, making responsible the person removing the animal. The animal could be brought back to the Shelter for shots. When the animal was returned to the Shelter permanently, a "Receipt of Animal" form ending the chain of custody would be issued. Another problem discussed was the lack of meeting attendance of one of the Animal Shelter Board members.

Councilman Buckmon said he had visited the Landfill and that he and the Superintendant for District 45 spoke regarding a recycling program being started in the schools. Councilman Buckmon said he would be sending a letter to all the School Districts regarding implementing a program.

Transportation

Councilman Smith said two roads in Williston in the Dixie Narco area were next in the paving projects.

Old Business

Resolution Regarding the Ban of Animals in County Buildings

Councilman Jowers moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Councilman Buckmon said an ordinance, not a resolution was needed so that the County could assess a fine for violations and he moved to amend the motion by having a first reading of an Ordinance instead of the approval of a Resolution. Attorney Mosteller said if the Resolution was approved, it would be binding until there could be three readings of an ordinance. Councilman Buckmon withdrew his motion to amend provided there be a 1st reading of an ordinance at the next Council meeting. The motion passed.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Workforce Area Designation

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council
David Kenner, Council Chairman