

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
February 22, 2013
Special Called Council Meeting
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 for a Special Called Council meeting on February 22, 2013 at 9 am in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., Clerk to Council Kim Futrell, Williston Rescue Squad representatives Phil Clarke, Wayne Carroll and Roger Kaney, Stan McGuffin, Rodney Peeples and Susan Delk with the People Sentinel. Councilman Kenner was unable to attend.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and declared a quorum. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Public Comments

Rodney Peeples addressed Council requesting that the Ordinance to Amend the Hospital Pension Plan Ordinance and to Ratify the Sale of the Hospital be bifurcated. He referenced SC Section Code 4-9-1210 of laws saying that 15% of registered voters may file a petition within 60 days for a referendum on any ordinance proposed or passed. He spoke further about the finances dealing with the County, the Hospital and the Williston Recue Squad.

Old Business

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Hospital Pension Plan Ordinance and to Ratify the Sale of the Hospital

Councilman Sloan said that the primary reason for the sale of the Hospital was to ensure that the citizens of Barnwell County would have first class medical care consistent with that of the surrounding communities for decades to come. He added that if the State Legislature would allow the County to impose an extreme tax burden on the citizens, then the Hospital could continue operating as it was now, but that the County could not impose enough taxes on the citizens to have the medical services and capabilities up to the standards in the surrounding communities. He said that would be best served by private enterprise. Councilman Creech added that he believed that the Hospital had not been run efficiently and that he believed that the County would best be served by having a Hospital run by a private firm. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Hospital Pension Plan Ordinance and to Ratify the Sale of the Hospital. 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-Absent
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss hospital litigation and a contractual matter with the Williston Rescue Squad. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Susan Delk stated that the People Sentinel had not received a notification of the Hospital Board meeting that was to follow the Special Called Council Meeting. Administrator Williams stated the agenda had been faxed to the media at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Chairman Houston stated that he had been provided a copy of the fax receipt confirming that the Hospital Board agenda had been faxed to the media. Susan Delk with the People Sentinel was given a copy of the receipt by Clerk to Council Kim Futrell.

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the settlement agreement with Dobbs, RHS, and authorize Chairman Houston to sign the settlement agreement. 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-Absent
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

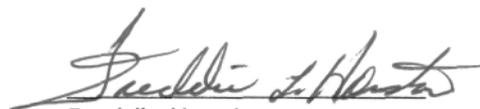
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman