

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 14, 2012
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 August 14, 2012 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Councilman Harold Buckmon, 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 Sheriff Ed Carroll, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Danny Black with Southern Carolina Alliance, Sam McGill with Atlantic Broadband and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Council Chairman Freddie Houston was unable to attend.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order, Councilman Sloan gave the invocation and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes / Welcome

Councilman Sloan moved to have the "Acceptance of the FY '11-'12 Audit" agenda item precede the "Updates" portion of the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes of the July 10th and July 18th Council meetings. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comments

Marty Martin with the EDC updated Council concerning a new ACT Program, "Certified Work Ready Communities Initiative", which would be going live on October 1st and would enable all 46 Counties in SC, over the next two years, to become Work Ready Certified Communities. Mr. Martin said that the SC Department of Employment and Workforce would be sending Chairman Black a letter outlining the program and he asked that Council delegate the Barnwell County EDC, in conjunction with the Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce, to spearhead the program in Barnwell County.

Updates

FY '11-'12 Audit

Auditor Robert Milhous reviewed the Audit Opinions for FY '11-'12 Audit of Barnwell County with Council and cited the following areas that were in non-conformance:

- No audit of the Barnwell County Hospital.
- GASB 45, dealing with post employment health benefits, was not implemented.

The following areas were in conformance:

- All major fund Levels.

He said that the Audit had been complete ahead of schedule due to the total cooperation of Management.

Councilman Sloan noted that there were comments in the Audit which had been repeated in the past Audits and that the County was making progress in addressing those issues. In regards to the internal controls / segregation of duties in the Finance Office, the Finance Committee in conjunction with Council would be recommending in the next budget cycle that additional staff be hired for the Finance Office. In regards to the Hospital, the Hospital had not had the resources to have an audit done and with the future sale of the Hospital, it would be an issue that would resolve itself.

He commended the Finance Director Robert Visbisky, his staff and Administrator Williams for doing a good job in working with the financial systems in place.

Southern Carolina Alliance

Danny Black distributed a written report to Council, reviewing the following:

- Colleton County and Jasper County joined the SCA.
- Tobul Accumulator announced a \$5 million expansion that will create 50 jobs. The expansion included the purchase of the CrossRhodes Industrial Building.
- Work continues on Project Snow in Barnwell as well as other Projects in Bamberg, Hampton, Allendale, Colleton and other counties.
- SCA was awarded a grant by the EDA and USDA for help in third level training of technical aspects that are beyond vocational and technical school training levels. This would be an academy that would provide Master's level training in welding, pipefitting and welding inspection. These are areas of need for many of the region's plants, Plant Vogtle construction firms and local industries.

Atlantic Broadband

Sam McGill with Atlantic Broadband let Council know he was there to answer any questions they might have in regard to the Consent to Application for State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority that they would be voting on later in the meeting. He informed Council that Atlantic Broadband's principal, Avery Financial had entered into a sales agreement with Cogico and had been bought as a wholly owned subsidiary. There will not be any changes in regards to services or in the name.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a written report.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen briefly reviewed her written report and advised Council that the Court had resumed ruling DSS Cases back in. The jail population should be increasing soon.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams reminded Council that at the back of their updates, there was a list of ongoing engineering projects that are using C-Funds. The Solid Waste Department would be receiving nearly \$28,000 in solid waste grants for FY '12-'13 which would be used in areas such as public education, the paving of a landfill site, disposing of used oil filters and the purchase of a 30 yard container.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

At the request of Councilman Houston, who was unable to attend the Council meeting, Councilman Sloan moved to nominate Jud Bing to District 1 of the Airport Commission. Councilman Smith moved to re-appoint John Boney and Calhoun Hoffman to the two at large seats on the Airport Commission. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

At the request of Connie Shade, Executive Director of the LSCOG, a motion was made to re-appoint Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., to another term on the LSCOG. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met at 4:30 pm and had reviewed the audit report for FY '11-'12. The Finance Committee also reviewed a request from the Blackville CDC for grant match funds. He said that the Committee was unaware of the Blackville CDC being awarded a grant yet and that there was \$5,000 remaining in the budget for grant match funds. The Finance Committee's recommendation to Council was that advanced restrictions not be placed on grant match funds and

for Council to convey to the Blackville CDC that once they obtained a grant, they could request Council's approval of grant match funds. Councilman Kenner said he believed that the CDC had a grant. Councilman Sloan said that he believed the CDC had applied for a grant from the LSCOG but that those grants had not yet been awarded.

The Finance Committee requested that Council allow the Committee to explore the development of a new County website that could be easily updated as there had been complaints concerning the current website not keeping the public apprised on items such as Council agendas, various County activities, and other information such as the developments concerning the hospital. Councilman Sloan moved for Council to approve allowing Administrator Williams to assess the current website's capabilities and if it was incapable, research the cost of creating a new website. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The Finance Committee also recommended to Council that checks be prepared in advance for poll workers and given to Administrator Williams to retain until Election Day at which time the Election Commission would have the poll workers sign for and receive their checks. The checks for those not present on Election Day would be returned to be voided and adjusted as needed. Councilman Sloan offered the Committee's recommendation in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams advised Council that the second half of the 2011 DOE Payment in lieu tax bill was received in late July. He added that there was only a \$100 per mill difference in what was budgeted for property tax millage production and the property taxes revenues that were actually received,

Government, Housing, Personnel, Safety, and Transportation Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said the Healthcare Committee has been trying to find a CFO for the Hospital as well as a potential buyer.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Increase Marriage License Fees. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Discussion was held that it was \$45 total which consisted of a \$25 County fee and a \$20 mandatory State fee. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Kenner said the Judicial Committee had met July 26th and discussed the State mandate requiring Counties to register dangerous animals. Councilman Sloan asked if the Sheriff had the administrative capacity to monitor the registrations, bond requirements and fee collections. Sheriff Carroll clarified that once a Judge in any County determined an animal to be dangerous, it would be the responsibility of the animal's owner to provide Animal Control with proof of the \$50,000 liability insurance per animal. He affirmed that the Sheriff's Office had the available personnel to verify that the registration forms were completed properly and would purchase the necessary tags but could not collect the \$30 fee. Councilman Kenner moved to approve the Registration for Dangerous Animals. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Kenner asked everyone to remember the condition of the jail.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith read aloud the Resolution Related to Monuments at the Veteran's Park and offered it in the form of a motion. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan noted that the wording at the end of the Resolution implied that final approval was required by both Council and the Veteran's group. He suggested that it be re-worded to reflect that the Services Committee would work with the local Veteran's group in bringing recommendations to Council for final approval. Councilman Smith amended his motion to include the re-wording. Councilman Jowers seconded the amended motion and it passed.

Old Business

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Increase Marriage License Fees

This agenda item was voted on and approved during the Judicial Committee portion of the meeting.

New Business

Consent to Application for State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority for Atlantic Broadband

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Consent to Application for State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority for Atlantic Broadband. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Prior to the vote, discussion was held confirming that the County will receive a 5% franchise fee, which is the maximum the State allows. Public Access Channels and ETV channels were also discussed.

Acceptance of the FY '11-'12 Audit

This agenda item was tabled until the September 11th Council meeting to allow Council time to review the report.

Approval of Registration for Dangerous Animals

This agenda item was voted on and approved during the Judicial Committee portion of the meeting.

Resolution Related to Monuments at the Veteran's Park

This agenda item was voted on and approved during the Services Committee portion of the meeting.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and pre-contractual matters. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Executive Session

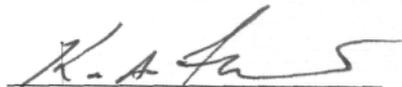
There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

A motion was made to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Travis Black
Council Chairman