

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**July 14, 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 July 14, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers Sr., Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Ed Burgess with the SCA, Lori Salley with McGregor and Company, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

**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 Creech moved to amend the agenda to include Jimmy Baxley giving an update on solar farms and to consider the paving a portion of the entrance to the Reedy Branch Convenience Site. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Councilman Houston moved to further amend the agenda to include consideration of a Resolution Acknowledging the Commencement of Construction by Orchids Paper. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the agenda with both amendments. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

**Updates**

Promise Zone

Ed Burgess said the SCA's application requesting that the 6 County region be designated as a Promise Zone was successful. The Promise Zone, a federal initiative, was based on low income and high unemployment levels and would give the designated regions applying for grants and federal aid an advantage in having their applications approved. The intent of the Promise Zone was to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime.

Acceptance of the FY '12 -'13 EDC Audit

Lori Salley detailed the findings of the FY '12-'13 audit for the EDC. Councilman Smith said at their last meeting, the EDC Board had approved the FY '12-'13 audit as information only and moved for Council to approve the '12-'13 audit as information only. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Council discussed having the EDC audit for FY '13-'14 begin immediately, as well as the possibility of combining FY '13-'14 and FY '14-'15, having a two year audit. There was further discussion on whether the EDC Board would agree to a two year audit, as they were formed in January of 2015 and were not responsible for the financial activities in FY '13-'14. Lori Salley said a two year audit was possible but that McGregor and Company would need to know quickly as it would determine who would receive the engagement letter to sign.

Acceptance of the FY '13 -'14 County Audit

Todd Highsmith detailed the findings of the FY '13 - '14 County audit. Councilman Houston moved to accept the FY '13 -'14 County audit as information only. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Information on Solar Farm in Walterboro

Jimmy Baxley said that he and Councilman Creech were impressed with the solar farm they had visited in Walterboro which could produce 3 mega watts of power with 10,010 solar panels. He said the facility seeking to locate in Barnwell would be able to produce triple that amount and felt that it would benefit Barnwell County. Councilman Creech added that nothing could be done until there was a deal with the Company and SCE&G.

Administrator

Administrator Williams said the Public Works Department had been asked to grade a ball field in Williston. Williston would spray the field for grass and weeds before the grading would begin. The cost of e-waste pick up was increasing and the Solid Waste Department had decreased the days of pick up from every Friday to every other Friday. The Building Inspector, Mike Grubbs, and the Election Commission, Chairman Bob Hundley, went to each of the polling locations to see if the sites would meet the accessibility requirements and only a few minor changes were necessary.

**Committee Reports**Government, Healthcare, Personnel, Safety, Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, and SCRDA

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed April's financial report.

Boards & Commissions

Airport Commission	Nomination of Pierce Beck for District 5 (residing in District 5) - term expired 2015
Airport Commission	Nomination of John Boney for At Large Seat - term expired 2015
Career Center	Nomination of Eve Hogarth for District 45 – term expired 2015
Generations Unlimited	Appointment of Andrea Hodge for District 4 – term expiring 2018
Library Board	Re-appointment of Eileen Hajdu for District 3 – term expiring 2017 (prev. term expired in 2014)
Museum Board	Re-appointment of Jerry Morris for District 5 (residing in District 6) – term expiring in 2018
Planning Commission	Re-appointment of Mike Anderson for District 5 (residing in 4) – term expiring 2018
Transportation Comm.	Re-appointment of Willie Walker for District 3 – term expiring in 2018

The appointment for the vacant seat on the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee was tabled. Councilman Houston moved for the re-appointment of Administrator Williams to the LSCOG Board. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the Clemson Extension Office wanted to relocate to the Blackville Edisto Experiment Station and the Public Defender's Office wanted to relocate to the Agricultural Building. Council discussed and concurred that the matter should be referred to the Government Committee for a recommendation.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said September had been designated "Recycling Month" by the Recycling Committee. Council discussed the need for better upkeep of the cemetery, establishing rules regarding limiting the amount of lots which could be purchased by one individual, and possibly prohibiting certain items, such as solar lights. Councilman Smith said the County would be hiring an employee for the Cemetery's upkeep. Vice Chairman Sloan recommended that the Services Committee and Administrator Williams meet to come up with some proposed guidelines.

Finance

Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee had met on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Houston moved that a 2 year audit be done for the EDC for FY '13-'14 and FY '14-'15 with the understanding that the present EDC Board would not be responsible for the FY '13-'14 portion of the audit. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston said the EDC Board would be responsible for presenting the EDC audit for FY '15-'16 when completed.

Economic Development

Councilman Smith said Jim Gambrell, the interim EDC Director, had begun working and that the EDC Board had approved of hiring temporary clerical worker to assist him. After being introduced by EDC Chairman Tommy Boyleston, Jim Gambrell said that he wanted to meet with Council to solicit their input of what they wanted for Barnwell County. He said a lot of work needed to be done with one of the first priorities being hiring a permanent EDC Director. He said special attention needed to be paid to the businesses already located in the County to encourage them to stay.

Housing

Councilman Smith said the Housing Committee needed to meet to discuss the Promise Zone.

Transportation

Councilman Smith said the Transportation Committee had met and had been advised that the local engineer with the SCDOT would be presenting a list of roads that could be paved with extra money the State had allocated to each County. Councilman Creech said the contractor paving Rainbow Drive had looked at the driveway entrance of the Reedy Branch Convenience Site and said he would pave it for \$1,500, as his equipment was already in place. The normal cost would be approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000.

**Old Business**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to an Easement to the City of Barnwell

Councilman Smith asked Council if they saw any changes that needed to be made to the easement to the City of Barnwell as more lines would need to be put in that area. County Attorney JD Mosteller said the easement was supposed to be wide enough to accommodate the additional lines needed. Councilman Smith said the EDC Committee was looking into the possible use of the water tower at Sara Lee to be used by Sara Lee and Orchids as a backup storage with a pipe needing to be run for fire suppression. The Transportation Committee was looking into an area owned by Jack Richardson for an easement for water line from that tank, as well as an 800 foot road. Councilman Smith moved for approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes                      Councilman Creech-Yes                      Councilman Jowers-Yes                      Councilman Smith-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-Yes                      Councilman Houston-Yes                      Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

**New Business**

Paving of Driveway Entrance to the Reedy Branch Convenience Site

Councilman Creech moved that Council approve having the entrance to the Reedy Branch Convenience Site paved for \$1,500. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Resolution Acknowledgement of Construction by Orchids Paper

County Attorney JD Mosteller said due to the transfer of property to Orchids being subject to a 180 day reversionary clause, Orchids Paper had requested Council pass a Resolution acknowledging construction by Orchids Paper. Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes                      Councilman Creech-Yes                      Councilman Jowers-Yes                      Councilman Smith-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-Yes                      Councilman Houston-Yes                      Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

**Executive Session**

No action was taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

Chairman Kenner asked Council and the County Attorney to have their information to the Administrator the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month to allow time for the Council Packet to be prepared

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

  
  
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David Kenner, Council Chair