

# **BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**September 10, 2013**

## **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 September 10, 2013 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, 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 Carroll, Clerk of Court McElveen, Marty Martin, Maria Williams, Mary Valiant, Phil Eastman and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

### ***Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum***

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and declared a quorum.

### ***Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes***

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the August 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

### ***Welcome / Public Comments***

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Councilman Sloan moved to suspend the rules of procedure to allow Mr. Sanders to speak about the standing water on his property, as it could pertain to the Public Works Department. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Mr. Sanders asked Council for assistance in finding solutions for the flooding problem that he and his neighbors have been having for years. Mr. Sanders said he had spoken with the SC Highway Department and with the subdivision developers but neither could offer any assistance. The developers of Heathwood had given spill rights when the subdivision was developed but the lot was overgrown and was not absorbing water. Because of this, all excess water was draining onto Mr. Sanders and his neighbor's property. Councilman Creech said he had spoken with Mr. Holliday with the SC Highway Department who said that he would assess the situation once the standing water receded.

### ***Updates***

#### **Clerk of Court**

Clerk of Court McElveen distributed a report and apprised Council of upcoming sessions of Court. She said she had received grant money for Courthouse repairs and would be giving the check to the County Treasurer.

#### **Sheriff**

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report and said the nurse at the jail was helping to reduce the prisoner transport, enabling him to put the transport team back on shift and hopefully eliminate some overtime. He said the Jail Management System should be in use the following week and that there was a vacant Jailer position open which he would be posting soon.

#### **County Administrator**

Administrator Williams introduced the new Finance Director, Maria Williams. The Bahia grass at the cemetery had been sprayed and would need to be sprayed again. In Emergency Management, there had been a lot of drills and it appeared that the LSCOG would be handling the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Due to the excessive rain, Public Works had received a lot of road complaints. The work on the Blackville parking lot had been delayed due to a septic tank being discovered.

#### **Economic Development Commission**

Marty Martin reviewed the report previously distributed to Council and said that some of the properties had to be repaired due to roof leakage but that the money would be recovered as the properties were under lease. He said that he was working with Kay Maxwell with the SCA in bringing a project to Blackville and that there were 4 more possible projects coming to the County.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### **Boards and Commissions**

Councilman Jowers appointed Sherman Brady to serve on the Planning Commission for district 4 and nominated Jerry Creech to serve in an ex-officio capacity on the SCA advisory Board. Councilman Creech appointed Kendell Hartzog to serve on the Animal Shelter Board for district 7 and Chris Harrington to serve on the Transportation Committee for district 7. Councilman Smith appointed Doris Rosier to serve on the Animal Shelter Board for district 5.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Creech said he had given Council information on the Airport Commission and that at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, he would be making a motion for the County to begin funding the salaries of Airport personnel.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee would possibly meet in October to review the budget and he, Chairman Houston and Administrator Williams would go to New York on October 4<sup>th</sup> to meet with a Board regarding borrowing for Capital Projects.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report for July 2013. There was discussion on line items in the finance report being misleading due to the way the CSI software listed it and regarding contacting CSI to have the issues with the software corrected.

HealthCare, Housing, Personnel, Safety, Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters, and SCRDA Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Government

Councilman Sloan asked Council to contact the Legislators and Senators asking them to oppose the Flow Control Legislation and to contact Senator Hutto to thank him and ask for his continued opposition to the Legislation. He detailed the negative impact the Flow Control Legislation would have on the Counties.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Buckmon said that he and Councilman Sloan had attended the City of Barnwell Council meeting regarding implementing a Gang Task Force. They would be attending the City of Blackville's Council meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the next Williston Council meeting. It was stressed that the Barnwell County Council was committed to having a Gang Task Force and had a revenue source for its funding for the next two years.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith said that the Recycling Committee would meet on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Agricultural Building Conference room.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Creech said that in the last month, Public Works had a difficult time with the excessive rain and commended the Department for their hard work. He said he was continuing to work with the EDC and the SCA regarding recreational opportunities in Barnwell County. Councilman Sloan asked if a study was being done on existing recreational opportunities in Barnwell. Councilman Creech said that two people from the Clemson University would be coming to Barnwell to do an analysis.

Old Business2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Provide an Infrastructure Credit Agreement Between Barnwell County and Barnwell County Hospital Acquisitions Group, LLC

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the above Ordinance. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon-Yes  
Councilman Creech -Yes

Chairman Houston - Yes  
Councilman Jowers - Yes

Councilman Kenner - Yes  
Councilman Sloan - Yes

Councilman Smith - Yes

The motion passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Hospital Board Membership

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the above Ordinance. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Acceptance of the '11-'12 Audit

Councilman Sloan moved to accept the '11-'12 Audit. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan clarified that it was a favorable audit on a Countywide fund basis with comments regarding the Hospital not having an audit done which he said Council had elected to not have done with the Hospital concurring.

**New Business**

1st Reading of a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

This Ordinance was read in name only. It was noted that the County was required to have a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to receive any assistance should a flood occur.

Resolution Concerning the 2013 DOE PILT

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the above Resolution. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

**Executive Session**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

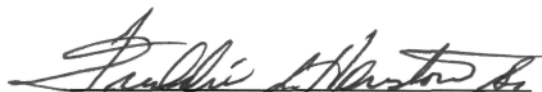
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell  
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman