

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 13, 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 March 13, 2012 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Vice Chairman Freddie Houston, 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, Lisa Firmender with Generations Unlimited and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

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

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes of the February 14th Council meeting. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

Updates

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a written report and asked if Council had questions. There were none.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report and said that \$5,500 had been collected in set off debt and there was a full roster of court for March.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Emergency Management Department held a decontamination drill on March 8th. They were assisted by Law Enforcement, Fire Department volunteers and EMS personnel. FEMA representatives attending the drill made several positive comments. In the Public Works Department, Curtis Hogg, Rick Stanfield, Homer Hammet and several inmates had completed the handicap ramp at the Agricultural Building. The Solid Waste Department would have a Recycling Committee meeting on March 15th with Ms. Rosinski from DHEC Recycling Office speaking about the different types of recycling programs being used in other counties.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any public comments. Norman Bolen introduced Tony Wilson. Mr. Wilson updated Council on a concert being held on May 5th by the James Brown Band which would be held on Mr. Bolen's property. He asked for Council's assistance in any way possible with such things as restroom facilities, staging and sound. He said he would like to see this become an annual event and believed it would attract positive attention and tourism to Barnwell County.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

District 1

Jason Stapleton	Economic Development Board	(Re-appointment)
Ronnie Tobin	Equalization Board of Appeals	(Re-appointment)
Inell Waring	Grievance Committee	(Re-appointment)
Ronald Brown	Housing Committee	(Re-appointment)
Sylvia Quattlebaum	Library Board	(Re-appointment)
Diane Sheppard	Museum Board	(Re-appointment)
Felicia Holman	Planning Commission	(Re-appointment)
William Brady	Recreation Commission	(Re-appointment)

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District 2

Ann Pernel	Axis 1, District 19, Seat 10	(Nomination)
Billy Johnson	Economic Dev. Commission	(Re-appointment)
Larry Hutto	Housing Committee	(Re-appointment)
Karen Jowers	Library Board	(Re-appointment)
Mike Beasley	Recreation Committee	(Re-appointment)

District 4

Gwendolyn Kinard	Generations Unlimited	(Re-appointment)
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District 5

Branna Williams	Axis 1 District 45, Seat 2	(Nomination)
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District 6

John W. McHenry	Animal Shelter	(Re-appointment)
Cleo Barfield	Equalization Board of Appeals	(Re-appointment)
Wilbur Wood	Fire Commission	(Re-appointment)
Gloria Myers	Grievance Committee	(Re-appointment)
Clarence Jones	Housing Committee	(Re-appointment)
Joann Kearse	Library Board	(Re-appointment)
Alisha Gaines	Planning Commission	(Re-appointment)
Lola Wright	Recycling Committee	(Re-appointment)

District 7

Walter Creech	Equalization Board of Appeals	(Re-appointment)
Harold Dean Griffin	Fire Commission #9	(Re-appointment)
Thomas Sharpe	Fire Commission #4	(Re-appointment)
Joe Nettles	Museum Board	(Re-appointment)
Mike Anderson	Planning Commission	(Appointment)
Travis Black	Hospital Board	(Re-appointment)

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee met February 22nd and reviewed a previous request from Generations Unlimited for additional funding. He said the Finance Committee was making no recommendation to Council regarding additional funding. The Finance Committee also reviewed a reimbursement request from the ABBE Library for salary and travel expenses associated with the Williston Library's need for temporary help due to a leave of absence. Councilman Sloan said the Committee was recommending Council approve a \$600 non-re-occurring reimbursement to the ABBE Library. Councilman Sloan moved for approval of the Finance Committee's recommendation. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan said that the new request from Generations Unlimited which was to be acted on in the Old Business portion of the agenda had not been discussed in a Finance Committee meeting and expressed his concerns on advancing money from a future budget year to fund a project in a current budget year. He noted that the budget had not yet been prepared, Council had not yet voted on the budget and that it would not be a good precedent to set.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the January 2012 Revenue and Expense Statement with Council giving clarification on revenue account 00430 and expense accounts 00500 and 07031. Councilman Houston asked Councilman Sloan and Administrator Williams about the interest in some inactive accounts in the Treasurer's Office.

Government, Housing, Safety Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said there would be a Hospital Board meeting on March 29th at 7:00 pm.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner asked that the condition of the Detention Center be considered when preparing the budget for 2012.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that Personnel Committee had completed the revision of the Employee Grievance Procedure to be included in the Personnel Manual. Councilman Houston asked Council to consider that there are employees working 12 hour days that do not work Fridays. He said this could have an effect on the time limits for filing a complaint. Discussion was held that the wording includes "working days" and Administrator Williams could track it in those situations. Councilman Kenner moved to approve the Employee Grievance Procedure as presented. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Services Committee

Discussion was held by Council concerning the request from Generations Unlimited for an advance of \$30,000 from the 2012 budget year to aid in the funding of the transportation system for which there would be an 80 percent grant match from the SC Department of Transportation. Several Council members expressed disapproval of advancing funds from an upcoming budget year to fund a current project. Discussion was held concerning excess funds remaining on the Fuldner Road Project (\$15,000) and the Healing Springs Project (\$16,600). Councilman Sloan said some of the funds for the Healing Springs Project came from private sources and that it was possible the Fuldner Road Project funds may be connected to the Airport. If these excess funds were able to be used, he urged Council to consider using them as a revenue source, noting that there could be unforeseen expenses in the coming year. He reminded Council that County employees had not only not had a raise in 4+ years but had a 3 percent salary reduction that the County still could not identify funding to make up for. Councilman Sloan moved to not provide additional funding to Generations Unlimited. The motion was seconded. Councilman Jowers asked Ms. Firmender what guarantee could she give to Council that Generations Unlimited would not have a similar financial request in 2012. Ms. Firmender said that there was a strategic plan in place for the coming year. Councilman Houston moved to amend the motion to provide \$15,000 of the excess funds to assist Generations Unlimited. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-No.

Councilman Buckmon-Yes.

Councilman Houston-Yes.

Councilman Jowers-No.

Councilman Kenner-Yes.

Councilman Sloan-No.

Councilman Smith-Yes.

Councilman Sloan moved that the money that was identified by the Treasurer as being excess funds from the Fuldner Road Construction Account into the General Revenue account. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said the Transportation Committee was requesting Council's approval of the condemnation of the remaining two properties for right of way on Rainbow Drive to allow for the road's paving. Consent from 80 percent of the residents had been received and though numerous attempts were made, the two remaining property owners were unable to be reached. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the condemnation of the property on Rainbow Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and it passed.

Councilman Houston said that Mr. Brown in Williston was requesting the County to maintain Joseph Street. He said the County had been scraping the road and once it was in the County's system, it could at some point be paved.

Old Business

Recommendation Concerning the Grievance Committee Portion of the Personnel Manual

This agenda item was voted on during the Personnel Committee portion of the agenda and was passed.

Request for Grant Match Funding for Generations Unlimited

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

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Multi-County Regional Healthcare Park Between Barnwell County and Bamberg County

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the creation of a Multi-County Regional Healthcare Park Between Barnwell County and Bamberg County and Other Related Matters

This Ordinance was read in name only. There was discussion that there needed to be a review of the revenue split and the shared cost of expenses.

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Hospital Pension Plan

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Recommendation from the Hospital Board Concerning the Lease of a Building

Councilman Houston move to approve the Hospital Board's recommendation concerning the lease of a building to Palmetto Internal Medicine. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Resolution Related to a Special Purpose District Referendum

Councilman Houston moved to approve the Resolution Related to a Special Purpose District Referendum. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Recommendation Concerning Reimbursement of Expenses for ABBE Library System

This agenda item was voted on during the Finance Committee portion of the agenda and was passed.

Condemnation of Property for Paving Rainbow Drive

This agenda item was voted on during the Transportation Committee portion of the agenda and it passed.

A motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session after a short break. The motion passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

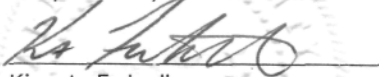
Open Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter into Open Session. The motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council/Admin. Asst.



Travis Black
Council Chairman