

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

March 12, 2013

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.

The Barnwell County Council met on March 12th at 6 pm in the 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 and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Councilman David Kenner and County Attorney J.D. Mosteller were unable to attend. Also in attendance were Election Commissioner Virginia A Mills, Brad Reynolds with the SCDOT, Amanda Sievers with the LSCOG, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Sheriff Ed Carroll and Jonathon Vickery with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the minutes of the February 12th and the February 22nd Council meetings. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Special Presentation

Councilman Smith presented a Resolution of Recognition to Election Commissioner Virginia A. Mills in acknowledgment of her retirement from the Election Commission.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone and asked for public comments. There were none.

Updates

SCDOT/LSCOG

Brad Reynolds with the SCDOT presented preliminary designs for the intersections at US 78/SC 39 and US 78/SC 781. Regarding US 78/SC 39, it was discussed that a right of way needed to be provided for access to the BP Gas station. Mr. Reynolds said the SCDOT would meet with the Town of Williston to present the preliminary designs. An alternate design for the intersection of 78/SC 781 was briefly discussed. The estimated construction start date for both US 78/SC 39 and US 78/SC 781 would be the Spring of 2014. Chairman Houston stressed that there needed to be ample opportunity for and consideration of public input concerning the designs of both intersections to avoid unnecessary construction costs should the designs prove to be inadequate. Amanda Sievers with the LSCOG assured Council that the LSCOG would be engaging in the public participation process which the Transportation Advisory Committee had established and that there would be several opportunities for public input.

Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen provided a report and said that over \$12,000 had been collected from the debt set off program.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report and said that he had been working with the Clerk of Court's Office on video conferencing to help reduce the need for transporting inmates for arraignment. Concerning the prospective noise code ordinance, it was discussed whether the Sheriff's Office would be able to enforce citations for noise violations issued within the city limits. Sheriff Carroll said that he had received several proposals for the cost of providing medical care at the Detention Center and that he would be meeting with the Judicial and Finance Committees. Sheriff Carroll also said that twenty cameras were being purchased for areas of the Detention Center not equipped with cameras and that he and Administrator Charlton would be able to monitor those areas from their homes.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that Fire Coordinator Timbo Williams had closed on the agreement with the owners on Patterson Mill Road for land that will be used for a substation. The Voter Registration Office had conducted two photo ID seminars and that Naomi DeFrenn had attended training on the new voter registration/election system.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Councilman Jowers nominated Andy Weeks to serve on the Transportation Committee for district 4. Councilman Smith nominated Josh Morton to serve on the Fire Commission for district 11. These nominations would be voted on at the April 9th Council meeting.

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Belt. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Absent

Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Panel. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Absent

Councilman Creech-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Sloan clarified that both Project Belt and Project Panel would be governed by the old Quad County Park Agreement (Park 1) which would make the FILOT split 97-1-1-1.

Finance

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee would be meeting March 22nd at 10 am.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial statement for January 2013 giving clarification on revenue item 0400 (Property Tax) and expense item 0119-2018 (Non-Departmental-Telephone).

Councilman Sloan moved that the Treasurer be asked to withhold distribution of the FILOT money collected from Horsehead until it is determined which park the company is in. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Government

Chairman Houston said that there had been a Quad County Park meeting to gain clarification on concerns in the new Quad County Park Agreement and that the 3rd Reading of the Ordinance was on the Agenda under Old Business.

Housing, Safety, Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters, SCRDA and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said that the Healthcare Committee had received an update from the attorneys regarding the deadline date for creditors' acceptance of a settlement offer and the hearing date should the settlement be rejected.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Buckmon said that he had met with Sheriff Carroll and that the Sheriff was researching the cost of providing medical care at the Detention Center.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Creech said that he had attended the Personnel Committee meeting and that there were no changes made.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Creech said the C-Fund report was in the Council's Packet for review and that Johnny Bessinger had resigned from the Transportation Committee. Councilman Creech said that he would like a cost comparison of what a private contractor would charge to provide the same standard of service that the County Public Works Department is currently providing. He moved that Council direct Administrator Williams do an internal analysis of the current cost to the County, taking into consideration money that was reimbursed to the County through C-Funds and then, through a RFP and sealed bids, determine the cost of having a private contractor provide the same standard of service. 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.

Old Business3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement for the New Quad-County Industrial Park

Councilman Sloan said he thought it prudent to table the 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to Execute and Deliver a Master Park Agreement for the New Quad-County Industrial Park as the revised Master Park Agreement had not been received from Attorney Morris. Councilman Jowers moved to table the 3rd reading until Council received the revised Agreement. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 1982-14 (Transfer of Jail Responsibilities to the Sheriff)

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 1982-14 (Transfer of Jail Responsibilities to the Sheriff). Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

2nd Reading of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Belt

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Economic Development Committee Report.

2nd Reading of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Panel

Action was taken on this agenda item during the Economic Development Committee Report.

2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Excessive Noise

Chairman Houston expressed concern that, because the municipalities did not have decibel meters, there would be increased patrol within the municipalities which would reduce patrol in rural areas by the Sheriff's Office. The possibility of the equipment being shared between the Sheriff's Office and the City Police Departments was discussed. Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to Excessive Noise. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

New BusinessMutual Aid Agreements with the Aiken County and the Bamberg County Sheriff's Departments

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the Mutual Aid Agreements with both the Aiken County and the Bamberg County Sheriff's Departments. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Acceptance of Property Willed to the County

Administrator Williams said that Assessor Mike Hughes had visited the property and that it was vacant except for a few piles of discarded shingles. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the Acceptance of Property Willed to the County. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Pennington family.

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

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

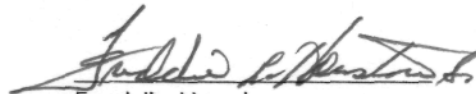
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman