

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 11, 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 September 11, 2012 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Travis Black, Council 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 Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Dr. Ann Carmichael with USC-Salkehatchie, Thomas Williams with the Boys and Girls Club and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the minutes of the August 14th and August 29th Council meetings. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked if the SCA Revenue FILT 70/10/10/10 Split as listed in August 29th minutes was correct. Councilman Sloan confirmed that it was. The motion passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no public comments.

Updates

USC Salkehatchie

Dr. Ann Carmichael said that over the last 5 years, USC Salkehatchie had experienced a 58% increase in enrollment which she attributed to more people staying home to attend college. She said that a study performed two years ago by the Darla Moore School of Business determined that USC Salkehatchie had a 43.8 million dollar impact on the 5 Counties they served. Academically, additional 4 year degree opportunities in nursing and teaching as well as 2 baccalaureate degrees in liberal studies were being offered. On a local level, she said that in 2012 there were over 100 Barnwell County students enrolled in classes offered by USC Salkehatchie in the Barnwell County high schools enabling students to gain college credits. Additionally, Leadership Development Classes were also being offered. In the Fall of 2013 USC Salkehatchie would be opening an off campus dormitory which would help students with transportation problems as well as attracting students wanting to live in away from home while attending college.

Boys and Girls Club

Thomas Williams said that the Boys and Girls Club, an organization which has been in existence for 140 years, began programs in the Allendale and Barnwell County schools on January 31, 2011. He said that the organization was open for ages 6 to 18 years and its goal was to give children a place to go after school. Academic Improvements in the children attending were being seen with 62% being on the A/B honor roll and 57% showing improvement in Barnwell and in Allendale, 58% being on the A/B honor roll and 43% showing improvement. The hours of operation were 2:30 pm to 7 pm during the school year and 8 am to 5 pm during the Summer. In December 2012 there would be a program beginning in Blackville and plans were being made to begin a program in Williston also. Mr. Williams reminded Council of their support of \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club 4 years prior and asked Council for their consideration of an additional \$10,000 of support and to consider making the Boys and Girls Club a yearly budget item.

Sheriff

A written report was distributed to Council. Sheriff Carroll was unable to attend.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen updated Council on the number of cases on the Court's roster and reviewed her written report noting that the number of filings had increased.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Building and Grounds Department was having difficulty keeping up with work due to a lack of employees. He attributed this to one of the positions which had been cut in previous years and the difficulty in keeping the part time custodian position filled. As a result, there had been complaints concerning the grass being not being cut at the cemetery and the old library. Under the Business Office, the Association of Counties offered 2 defensive driving courses which 24 employees attended. Under the Fire Commission, the online firefighter class had approximately 30 firefighters enrolled. The firemen, after completing the written exam and practical skills, will have a level of firefighter 1. Under Solid Waste, the tonnage to 3-River had increased which Administrator Williams attributed to the 11.4 inches of rain at the Landfill. Under Administration, the Energy Grant was complete. This grant enabled the replacement of lighting fixtures in several County Office Buildings, the morgue cooler and the washers and dryer at the Detention Center. Administrator Williams commented on the good efforts Kim Futrell, Jesse Ortiz and Debbie Fickling made to complete the grant.

Committee ReportsBoards and Commissions

Councilman Houston appointed Jud Bing to serve on the Airport Commission for District 1. Chairman Black appointed DJ Washington to serve on the Transportation Committee for District 7 and nominated Roxanne Inabinett to serve on the Animal Shelter Board for District 6.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure Statement for July 2012. He said that the Finance Office, with the help of other Departments, had been collecting information requested by the Attorneys in preparation for the Admin. Bldg. Suit.

Finance, Government, Safety and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said that Bamberg County was pursuing a different buyer for the Bamberg County Hospital. Resurgence Management would continue with the purchase of the Barnwell County Hospital and would be issuing a Letter Of Intent which would be identical to the original LOI with the exception that Bamberg County would be omitted. Councilman Jowers made a motion to allow the Council Chairman to sign the revised LOI. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. County Attorney JD Mosteller clarified that the revised LOI was the same document already approved by the Hospital Board with the exception that all references to Bamberg County were removed. 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 Jowers said there would be a Hospital Board meeting on September 20th at 7 pm.

Housing Committee

Councilman Kenner said the Blackville CDC would be sending a packet to the Finance Committee requesting grant match funding.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner asked everyone to remember the condition of the jail and thanked Sheriff Carroll and other members of the Sheriff's Department for attending the Blackville Police Forum. Councilman Houston referenced an email from Hampton County asking if there were any Counties in the region interested in a jail joint venture.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee wanted to thank the Barnwell County employees for their hard work and for enduring the pay cuts and the moving to and from different offices in the County.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said that Administrator Williams had been keeping Council apprised of the various road projects via e-mail.

Councilman Sloan said that Tim Fox was the new Executive Director at Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority replacing Colin Covington who had left several months prior. Councilman Sloan said that due to an operating loss of \$25,000 a month and problems with equipment, Three Rivers had decided to close the MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) and would discontinue its supply to Climax Global. Climax Global indicated that the discontinuation was not a problem. County Attorney JD Mosteller added that Climax Global had made the business decision to not hire personnel to man the MRF before Three Rivers made the decision to discontinue.

Old BusinessAcceptance of the FY '11-'12 Audit

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the Acceptance of the FY '11-'12 Audit. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Travis Black
Council Chairman