

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 12, 2011
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 July 12, 2011 in Council Chambers at 6:00 pm. 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, County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Will Roberts with the State Budget and Control Board, Marty Martin with the EDC, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen and Kaelyn Pfenning with the People Sentinel.

Public Hearing Concerning Re-districting

There were no public comments.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

Chairman Black called the meeting to order, Councilman Smith gave the invocation and Chairman Black declared a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the agenda by adding "EDC Report" prior to the Healthcare Committee report. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Special Presentations

Resolutions of Recognition were presented to Judge Bebo Flynn and Constable Lonnie McAlister for their service to the County. A Resolution of Recognition for being named Coroner of the Year by the SC Coroner's Association for Lloyd Ward was also approved and will be presented to Coroner Ward during the week since he was unable to attend the meeting.

Updates

Will Roberts, with the State Budget and Control Board, distributed draft re-districting maps to Council. Administrator Williams noted that two of the Council member's names were placed in the wrong districts on the map. Mr. Roberts gave a summary of the process involved when preparing the re-districting maps and reviewed each district's percentages of various population groups with Council. He concluded by asking Council to review the maps and call if changes needed to be made or if there were further questions.

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen said that \$4,000 was collected for bond escheatment's. The Grand Jury would convene on July 26th and would be inspecting County Facilities on July 27th.

Administrator Williams said he will be signing a letter to deactivate the Federal ID number for the Nursing Home since the County no longer owns it. Attorney Mosteller added that it was an issue of closing out the final numbers and deactivating the payroll account so that the County will have no further potential liability for payroll. The Finance Office has new software and will be receiving additional training. The payroll will run parallel with both the new and old software programs to confirm that the numbers are consistent. Councilman Sloan suggested that the software programs run parallel long enough to confirm that the W-2's and the 1099's for the end of the year are correct. Administrator Williams said that the Red Oak Fire Department is requesting their building be placed on the State's insurance. If the County obtains a lease agreement with the Red Oak Fire Department for the building, it will be possible for Red Oak to obtain State insurance. He added that Red Oak will be paying the premiums. The physicals for many of the area fire departments will be done July 13th

and 14th. Administrator Williams said that 71 tons of solid waste were pulled out during June, which saved approximately \$2,530 in tipping fees and generated funds received from recycling of the material.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve the nomination of Lori Smith to seat 7 of the Animal Shelter Board. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston made a motion for Richard Johnson to serve on the Axis 1 Board for District 29. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Jowers made a motion to approve the nomination of Kiran Wariach to represent District 3 on the Recycling Committee. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Government, Healthcare, Housing, and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above committees.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the FY '12 budget was approved at the June 29th Council meeting and the Finance Committee will meet in the next couple months.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams said that account 825 under Miscellaneous Revenue on the revenue report shows \$429,000 received. He said most of this money was received as a pass through grant. On the expense report, the contingency funds are the costs being tracked for the Administration Building issues. He said that the jail is doing a good job keeping the costs low with physician care and food supplies. Council discussed various expense accounts. Administrator Williams will answer the questions by e-mail after he has a chance to review a detailed printout. Councilman Sloan suggested that Department Heads review their accounts monthly and update Administrator Williams on any variances.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner said that Judge Inabinet will be retiring after 18 years of service and that a portrait was prepared and is displayed in the Courtroom. A reception will be held at the Gail Reyes Senior Center. Councilman Kenner made a motion for Council to approve \$1,000 in funding for the event. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

EDC Request for Administrator Authority to sign Grant Applications

Marty Martin, Economic Development Commission Director, said he is preparing two rural infrastructure grants on projects. He needs to have Administrator Williams sign the grants because they need to channel through the County. Once the grants are approved, the EDC will provide expense documentation to the County related to the grants. He asked Council to authorize Administrator Williams to sign the grants on behalf of the County. Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve Administrator Williams signing the grants. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Martin said that he could discuss the projects that the grants are related to in Executive Session. Councilman Sloan made a motion to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss the Infrastructure Grants. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Chairman Black suggested the Executive Session be held after the Transportation Committee report. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-No
Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee met to compile the changes in the personnel manual and an email of the updated personnel manual will be sent out soon. He encouraged everyone to review the updated manual for possible suggestions or changes.

Safety Committee

Councilman Jowers said that the Fire Commission has a 1994 ambulance that they want to donate to the Branchville Fire Department. He made a motion to approve the donation. The motion was seconded. Councilman Sloan asked if there any legal restrictions on the donation of the vehicle. Administrator Williams said as far as he knew there are none. Councilman Buckmon said he was against the donation due to the

economic condition of the County. Administrator Williams said it was only suitable for hauling light loads. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said the Transportation Committee would meet July 14th at 6pm.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Smith made a motion that Administrator Williams be given approval to sign two rural infrastructure grant requests. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

Transfer of Surplus Ambulance

This matter was voted on during the Safety Committee report and was approved.

Increase of Landfill Fees per Previous Resolution

Councilman Smith said that Three Rivers has increased their landfill fees by \$1.00 per ton and made a motion to include a rate increase for Barnwell County landfill fees. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked if the fees are the same for in county and out of county. He said that the out of county fees should be more. Councilman Sloan said the Resolution passed in 2006 provided that the landfill fees would increase if Three Rivers Landfill fees and did not need to be voted on. County Attorney JD Mosteller said that the County could differentiate the fees charged for in county and out of county. Councilman Smith withdrew his original motion. The County's landfill fees will increase \$1.00 per ton on September 1st.

Clarification of Signature Authority for Admin. Bldg. Design and Repairs.


Administrator Williams said that he and County Attorney JD Mosteller met with Robbie Sharpton concerning the upcoming repairs to the Administration Building. In the meeting, Robbie Sharpton said that someone needed to be readily available to authorize purchases and change orders. Administrator Williams said that Council had previously voted to approve the repairs, but that it was not clarified who would have the authority to sign for the repairs. Councilman Jowers made a motion that Administrator Williams have signature authority to authorize purchases and change orders for Administration Building repairs. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan requested that the SCA Board members give a monthly update of activities and their impact on Barnwell County. Additionally, that they provide a copy of the report sent to SRRDI detailing how re-development funds from the State of SC that pertain to Allendale and Barnwell County are being spent.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


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


Travis Black
Council Chairman