

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

APRIL 10, 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 April 10, 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., and County Attorney J.D. Mosteller. Clerk to Council, Kim Futrell was unable to attend. Sheriff Ed Carroll, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, James Harris, VP of Operations at Energy Solutions and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel were also in attendance.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th Council meeting. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Eddie Hair addressed Council with his concerns related to the Barnwell County Cemetery, which included incorrect plot numbers listed on his initial cemetery deed, the cemetery's lack of irrigation, the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery and the current system in use for tracking cemetery plot ownership. He recommended installing an irrigation system, repainting the exterior block wall, purchasing software to track cemetery plot ownership, forming a committee to assist Council with cemetery oversight and instituting a mandate to prevent the burying of animals in the cemetery.

Tony Wilson updated Council on the plans for the upcoming concert by the James Brown band and requested that Council consider funding of \$3,000 to assist in the promotion of the concert.

Danny Black, with the Veterans' Association, requested that Council enact an ordinance to prevent monuments being placed in the Veteran's Park without the prior approval from the Veteran's Park Committee.

Updates

Energy Solutions

James Harris, Vice-President of Barnwell Operations-Energy Solutions distributed a written report and updated Council on the operations at the Barnwell Processing Facilities.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a written report and said that, due to the possible closing of the Hilda Post Office, the Barnwell Post Office was requiring the re-naming of roads in the Hilda/Kline area that would have the same name and zip code.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a written report and updated Council on the number of cases on the Court's roster for April.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams updated Council on the following: Semimonthly, the Detention Center inmates were picking up trash on habitually littered roads. The Emergency Management Department received a good review on its performance in the March 21st FEMA drill coordinated in conjunction with Plant Vogtle. Under Fire Commission, Timbo Williams and Building Inspector, Rick Stanfield performed several fire inspections in various buildings in March. In the Recycling Department, 21 tons of recyclables were removed from waste coming into the Transfer Station. Another 85 tons of recyclables were collected at the convenience sites, generating

approximately \$7,500 in County revenue in March. The newly formed Recycling Committee had an organizational meeting on March 15th. Administrator Williams believes an active Committee will result in an increase in recycling awareness and revenue.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

At the recommendation of the LSCOG, Councilman Houston nominated Torienia Tucker to represent Public Employment Services and Marty Martin to represent Economic Development on the Workforce Development Board. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Council asked Administrator Williams to contact the three persons suggested by the LSCOG to represent the Private Sector on the Workforce Board to verify their willingness to serve and tabled the nomination for the Private Sector position until the May 8th Council meeting.

Councilman Kenner moved to approve the March 13th nomination of Ann Pernell to the Axis I Board for district 19, seat 10. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan appointed Libby Still to replace Marissa Schumpert on the Museum Board for district 3.

Councilman Smith nominated Jerry Morris to replace Ann Hagood on the Museum Board for district 5. As Mr. Morris resides in district 6, this nomination will require a vote at the May 8th Council meeting.

Councilman Smith moved to approve the March 13th nomination of Branna Williams to the Axis 1 Board for district 45, seat 2. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to appoint Curtis Hogg to the LSCOG Transportation Advisory Committee. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee would be meeting April 27th at 10 am to do a preliminary review of Department Head budget requests.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the February 2012 Revenue and Expense Statement giving clarification on Revenue Account 400 and Expense Accounts 7002 and 7031. Councilman Sloan asked Administrator Williams to research the landfill equipment being placed on a regular maintenance schedule similar to that of the vehicles at the Sheriff's Department to help deter high maintenance costs.

Government, Judicial, Personnel, Safety and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers said the Healthcare Committee had met and there were items being presented to Council under the Old Business portion of the Agenda.

Housing Committee

Councilman Kenner moved to approve the Resolution designating April as Fair Housing Month. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Houston said the SC Department of Transportation would be making changes to the intersections of highways 278/781, 300/278, 39/78 and 78/781. Councilman Houston said he had asked the SCDOT to present the plans to Barnwell County and encouraged the public to attend any meeting scheduled to have input.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Multi-County Regional Healthcare Park Between Barnwell County and Bamberg County

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Multi-County Regional Healthcare Park Between Barnwell County and Bamberg County. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

2nd 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

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Creation of a *Master Park Agreement* Governing the Multi-County Regional Healthcare Park Between Barnwell County and Bamberg County and Other Related Matters. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Prior to the vote, Councilman Buckmon asked how much the creation of the Healthcare Park would cost. Councilman Sloan said the cost of the infrastructure from the original agreement was approximately \$1,000,000. The agreement further stated that if the purchaser (RHS) chose a different location, they would pay any additional infrastructure costs in excess of \$1,000,000. Because RHS chose a different location, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties' cap would be approximately \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 each per County). This money would be eventually be reimbursed to the Counties from tax revenues received from the project. The short term cost to Barnwell County \$500,000 which could be decreased through possible grant funds which assist with water and sewage line costs. Councilman Houston expressed concern that the wording "Master Park Agreement" was not reflected in the minutes of the March 13th Council meeting. County Attorney J.D. Mosteller said that because the Ordinance itself included the wording "Master Park Agreement", it being omitted in the minutes had no bearing.

2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Hospital Pension Plan

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Hospital Pension Plan. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Provision of Economic Development Incentives for a Regional Healthcare System and Other Related Matters.

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Designating April as Fair Housing Month

The Resolution Designating April as Fair Housing Month was voted on and approved during the Housing Committee portion of the agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss a pre-contractual matter. The motion passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

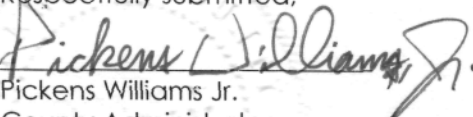
Open Session

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 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Pickens Williams Jr.
County Administrator


Travis Black
Council Chairman