

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

June 11, 2013

## Council Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified & notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met on June 11, 2013 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, 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, Sheriff Ed Carroll and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

### **Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum**

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order. Councilman Smith gave the invocation and a quorum was declared.

### **Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the May 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

### **Welcome / Public Comments**

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Rodney Peeples said that he was the attorney referred to in the OP ED letter filed by Council and made the clarification that he had appeared in Bankruptcy Court but that he had not filed a lawsuit against the Hospital or the County but that Don Alexander had. Mr. Peeples addressed Council regarding dual office holding saying that, in his opinion, those serving on Council could not appoint themselves to another Board.

### **Updates**

#### Southern Carolina Alliance

Danny Black reviewed the SCA's monthly report and asked if he could address any of Council's concerns expressed at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman Creech confirmed with Mr. Black that the SCA would be willing to, in executive session, answer any question Council may have regarding prospective industry locating in the County. Councilman Smith said that he was concerned about industry handling radioactive matter locating at the SCA site and said that Council should be advised before such an industry was asked to locate in Barnwell County. Councilman Sloan added that the County's Land Use Ordinance requires approval of any nuclear industry locating in the County. Mr. Black assured Council that any nuclear industry would have to be approved by DHEC, passed by the County and State governments and by the General Assembly. In an effort to improve unity and communication, the SCA would begin meeting in Hampton County every 2 weeks with the EDC's of all 6 counties.

#### Clerk of Court

Rhonda McElveen distributed a report for the Clerk of Court's Office. She said the amount of court hearings would be increasing and that the number of warrants had doubled since May. The debt set off program had collected \$16,000.

#### Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report for the Sheriff's Office. He said that training on the Jail Management Software for the Detention Center had begun and that the system should be operational by the end of August. Councilman Creech asked if there had been any response from the Cities and Towns regarding the Noise Ordinance and Sheriff Carroll said they had all been very receptive.

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the Building Inspector that was doing the commercial inspections for the County was unable to continue and that after looking at other options, including a company that does inspections for a fee, an agreement had been reached with Calhoun County whose Building Inspector is certified to do commercial inspections. Barnwell County would reimburse Calhoun County for their costs and their Building Inspector would do commercial inspections for Barnwell County at a maximum hours of 8 hours per week which would include travel time. He said the 8 hour limit should not be a problem as commercial inspections are scheduled and are not needed on a moment's notice. The Emergency Management Department and the Fire Coordinator participated in a simulated decontamination drill at the Airport on May 20<sup>th</sup>. In the Public Works Department, a pre-bid meeting was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> for paving the Blackville Parking Lot.

**Committee Reports**

Boards and Commissions

The following nominations were made for an open position on the SCA Board:

Councilman Jowers moved to nominate Jerry Creech. Councilman Creech moved to nominate Adam Altman. Councilman Sloan moved to nominate John Johnson. Councilman Kenner seconded Councilman Sloan's motion. Chairman Houston said that John Johnson was the only nominee for the SCA Board as there were no seconds on the motions made by Councilman Jowers and Councilman Creech. Being a nomination, Chairman Houston said the appointment for John Johnson would be voted on at the next Council meeting. Councilman Creech urged Council to vote on the appointment of Mr. Johnson and to not delay it until the next Council meeting. Chairman Houston said the usual practice was to vote on a nomination at the following Council meeting but that since Mr. Johnson was the only nominee, he saw no problem with it being voted on at the present Council meeting. Councilman Sloan moved that Council approve the nomination and appointment of John Johnson to the SCA Board. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Kenner said he felt it prudent to follow the normal nomination and appointment process used by Council for other Boards and Commissions. Chairman Houston called for a vote on Councilman Sloan's motion for the appointment of Jack Johnson on the SCAT Board. The motion passed. Councilman Kenner's vote was nay.

Councilman Kenner, based on his nomination at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, moved to appoint Annette Felder to the open position, previously filled by Thomas Williams, on the SCA Board. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

In addition to the above appointments, the following appointments and re-appointments were also made:

Appointment	Laura Buice	Animal Shelter	District 3
Re-Appointment	Lori Smith	Animal Shelter	District 4 - (Resides in District 5)
Appointment	Jessie Elmore	Fire Commission	District 5 - Seat 11
Re-Appointment	Aubrey Wright	Housing Committee	District 4
Re-Appointment	Nina Grady	Planning Commission	District 3
Re-Appointment	Judy M. Taylor	Recycling Committee	District 1
Appointment	Kiran Waraich	Recycling Committee	District 3 - (Resides in District 5)
Appointment	William Morris	Recycling Committee	District 7
Re-Appointment	Franklin Brown	Transportation Committee	District 1

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Creech said the Committee had met and toured Unitech .

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan reported that the Finance Committee met on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup> and would be meeting again on June 14<sup>th</sup>. A Special Called Council meeting was scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the FY '13-'14 Budget. The Finance Committee was recommending a 6 mill increase which would put the budget in balance. He said the Committee did not like increasing taxes, but that there had not been a millage increase in recent years and with the cost increases in fuel, insurance, electricity, benefits etc. there was no other alternative. He commended Administrator Williams for his hard work on the budget and the Department Heads for keeping costs low.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial statement for April. On line item 0119-2018, Debra Fickling was in contact with the two phone companies to determine if there was double billing. He said the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the DOE payment would arrive in July.

Government, Personnel and SCRDA Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Jowers the Court had denied the motion filed by Don Alexander and the sale was moving forward.

### Housing Committee

Councilman Buckmon said that in fiscal year "12-'13 Council had approved the Blackville CDC's request for \$10,000 and the money had not been used by the Blackville CDC, so their current request of \$5,000 was for money that had already been set aside. Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the Blackville CDC's request for \$5,000. The motion was seconded. Councilman Sloan agreed that Council had approved \$5,000 for the Blackville CDC to use but clarified that only \$5,000 had been set aside, not \$10,000 for use by the Blackville CDC. Councilman Creech objected, saying the County was raising the taxes by 6 mil and did not have money to waste. A vote was held and the motion passed. Councilman Creech's vote was nay.

### Judicial Committee

Councilman Buckmon said there would be a meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Williston regarding a Gang and Drug Task Force and invited everyone to attend. Councilman Sloan said in the past costs had prevented the communities standing in support of a Task Force but that he hoped the communities had begun to see that there had been very serious issues and a real need and that the problem needed to be addressed. He encouraged everyone's attendance and expressed his thanks to the Barnwell Economic Development Committee for providing food for the meeting.

### Safety Committee

Councilman Creech moved that Council authorize Chairman Houston to send a letter to Stan Holladay with the SCDOT requesting installation of a stop light at the intersection of US Hwy. 70 and Galilee Road in Barnwell. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

### Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters

Chairman Houston recommended the Committee meet to review current ordinances and policies in depth with County Attorney JD Mosteller and to create an ordinance which would deal specifically with guidelines and issues should a company dealing with nuclear matter seek to locate in Barnwell County. Councilman Sloan said that Barnwell County had 60% of its land on DOE property yet had no representation on the DOE's Citizens Advisory Board since 2006. He stressed that there needed to be someone from Barnwell County on the Board so that Barnwell County would have representation and input.

### Services Committee

Councilman Smith said the Committee had discussed the request for waiver of landfill fees from the Town of Snelling. The Committee's suggestion was that the fees be deducted from the licensing fee. Councilman Smith contacted Mayor Moore and the Town's plans had changed and the waiver of fee request was no longer needed. Councilman Sloan said the beautification of the municipalities would benefit everyone and suggested that the Services Committee meet to consider raising the waiver of fees from 10 to up to 15 tons per year or to look into other methods such as incineration to encourage the municipalities to undertake beautification projects. Discussion was held that the waiver on the amount of tonnage would need to be raised considerably to make any difference.

### Transportation Committee

Councilman Creech said that the Curtis Drive project was 95 % complete and that the paving of the parking lot in Hilda would begin in June. He said the FAA would be funding having an 8 foot barbed wire fence built around the property. Councilman Smith said the Airport would be putting decorative fencing on the portion next to the businesses so that it would not be an eyesore.

### **Old Business**

#### Capital Project Sales Tax Info

Chairman Houston said that a lot of work needed to be done to implement the 1% Capital Sales Tax and that there needed to be support in the community. Administrator Williams said he had met with P4G (People for Growth) and that Tommy Sanders who was on the Board, had picked up a copy of the Capital Sales Tax legislation.

### **New Business**

#### Request from the Town of Snelling

This agenda item was addressed during the Service Committee report.

#### Request from the Blackville Community Development Corporation

This agenda item was approved during the Housing Committee report.

#### Participation in the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve participation in the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Request for Original Plaque from Administration Building

Councilman Jowers moved to approve the request for the original plaque from Administration Building adding that it should be donated. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

Request for Traffic Light at Intersection

This agenda item was approved during the Safety Committee report.

**Executive Session**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

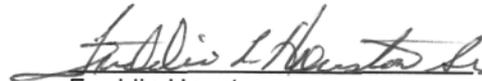
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell  
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman