

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**January 13, 2015**  
**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 January 13, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, Clerk to Council Kim Futrell, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Also attending was Lu Richardson, accompanied by family and friends.

***Presentation of Gavel/Plaque***

Chairman Kenner presented Councilman Houston with a Gavel/Plaque in recognition for his service as Chairman from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014 and commended him for his dedication and leadership.

***Presentation of Resolution of Appreciation to Lu Richardson***

Councilman Smith presented Lu Richardson a Resolution of Appreciation for many years of service on the Library Board.

***Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Minutes, Welcome & Public Comments***

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> minutes. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

***Updates***

**YMCA**

Matt Mullen gave an update on the YMCA. In appreciation for their support, Council was invited to a private tour on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The grand opening for the public would be January 31<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm.

**Airport**

PF Beck distributed a report and gave an update on projects, assuring Council the projects were being done at no cost to the County but were being funded through grants and monies in the Capital Project Improvement Account. Councilman Creech expressed appreciation to the Airport for the job they were doing. Councilman Houston asked how much money the Airport had received for the 40 acres that the County had sold to Project Tissue and what had been done with the money. Mr. Beck said the Airport received \$88,000 for the land and a little over \$10,000 for the timber. The money was deposited into the Capital Project Improvement Account which was funding the projects. Concerning the additional acreage the County was selling to Project Flower, Attorney Mosteller said the appraisal was \$101,000. Administrator Williams clarified the value of the timber was not included in the appraisal, as it was not yet known the amount of timber Project Flower would want. Once known, an appraisal would be done on the timber being retained by Project Flower. Attorney Mosteller said FAA approval was being obtained regarding height restrictions.

**Blackville Senior Center**

Lisa Firmender said the old Country Club in Blackville had been renovated and would be opening January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Center would be available to senior citizens Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. In the afternoons and on the weekends, it would be available to the schools for student activities.

**Clerk of Court**

Rhonda McElveen distributed a report and gave an update on the sessions of Court.

**County Administrator**

Administrator Williams said Emergency Management had applied for \$100,000 grant for a generator for the new jail building. Through the hard work of Amanda Sievers with the LSCOG and Roger Riley, Administrator Williams said he was optimistic that the County would be awarded the grant. The Career Center was working on a communications trailer for Emergency Management for use during power outages. Construction had begun on the substation at Patterson Mill. An ISO review of the whole county would be done in the next few months. Some current ISO ratings were; Williston - 3, Hilda- 4, Barnwell- 5. Council discussed a possible site location on Hwy. 278 for a substation.

***Committee Reports***

**Boards & Commissions**

Councilman Creech appointed Evelyn Gardner to the Animal Shelter Board for District 7, Tim McCormick to the EDC Board for District 19, and re-appointed Wallace Perry to the Career Center for District 45. Councilman Jowers appointed Chip Still to the EDC Board for District 45. Councilman Buckmon re-appointed Vorise Peebles to the Generations Unlimited Board for District 6. Councilman Smith appointed Yvette Sanders to the Library Board for District 5. Chairman Kenner reviewed the 2015-2016 Standing Committees.

Economic Development

Councilman Jowers said that Project Flower requested no specific company information be released until April. Regarding Climax Global, Councilman Jowers said a new company was interested in the building. He had been unable to find a lease and was told by Mayor Beasley that no payments had been received from Climax Global in three years. Councilman Jowers said he, Danny Black and an engineer had visited the Hanes Brand building and it was in need of much repair. He said a company would be looking at the building on the 24<sup>th</sup> and it was his recommendation, if the company was interested in purchasing the building, that the County sell it for \$250,000 which he estimated would save the County \$500,000 in repairs. Council determined an appraisal needed to be done before any action was taken.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed November's financial report.

Finance, Health Care, Housing, Personnel, Safety, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, and SC RDA

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee was waiting on space requests from all Departments.

Services

Councilman Smith said the Animal Shelter was closed as maintenance work was being done on the Shelter's interior. The Animal Shelter Board was preparing a job description for use once a new Shelter Manager was hired.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said construction on Rainbow Drive had begun.

New Business1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Ban of Animals within County Buildings

County Attorney JD Mosteller said a resolution, as opposed to an ordinance, would be adequate for the ban of animals in County Buildings. An ordinance would be necessary only if there would be a penalty for violations. Council discussed revising the resolution so that the ban excluded animals belonging to the Sheriff's Department, certified animals, and animals being trained by a certified animal training instructor. This matter was tabled for the resolution to be revised.

Approval of Job Description and Discussion of Hiring Process for EDC Director

Council discussed the job description and the need for revisions regarding supervision of the EDC Director and having the job description reference the Ordinance(s) which governed the EDC and had been passed by County Council. Vice Chairman Sloan moved to approve the job description with the following revisions; replacing "under limited supervision of the County Administrator or County Development Board Chair" with "supervision of the Economic Development Commission", and also by inserting "in accordance with the ordinances of Barnwell County Council." A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-Yes  
Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes  
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Houston moved that Council decline the Grievance Committee's recommendation and hold to their original decision. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council

  
David Kenner, Council Chairman