

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

August 13, 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 August 13, 2013 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, 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 Sheriff Carroll, Attorney Michael Kozlarek, Brent Robertson, Bob Milhous and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Councilman Lowell Jowers was unable to attend the meeting.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum

Chairman Houston called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and declared a quorum.

Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the July 9th Council meeting minutes. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Welcome / Public Comments

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Updates

Presentation of FY '11-'12 Audit

Bob Milhous, independent Auditor for the County, said the fund level financial statements for the County for FY '12 had an unqualified and clean audit opinion. The County's government wide financial statements for FY '12 had qualifications due to the Hospital not having audited financial statements and due to an issue dealing with post employment benefits. He said that neither of these items would be issues in FY '13.

Clerk of Court

A report was distributed for Clerk of Court McElveen who was unable to attend the meeting.

Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report and said that the contract with Health Partners had been reviewed by the County Attorney and signed. It would take effect September 1st and there would be a nurse at the jail four hours every day. Councilman Creech asked if the municipalities had approved a Noise Ordinance similar to the County's. Sheriff Carroll said that the City of Barnwell had voted against it and that he had not heard from the other municipalities concerning it. The Sheriff said there had been an increase in violent crimes and asked Council to follow up on approval of a Drug and Gang Task Force. Councilman Sloan said he planned to meet with the municipalities and school boards in the upcoming month.

County Administrator

Administrator Williams said that the increase in rain had affected the Building & Grounds, Solid Waste, Emergency Management, and Public Works Departments. Building and Grounds was having difficulty cutting the grass and would be spraying the cemetery grounds with a chemical to help impede the growth of the bahaigrass. Solid Waste's shipped out tonnage had increased due to the wet items causing added weight. Emergency Management had responded to calls due to flooding and Public works had increased calls due to dirt roads being flooded and drainage pipes being clogged.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

The following actions were taken concerning Boards and Commissions:

Animal Shelter	Denise Elkins	Re-appointed	District 1
Animal Shelter	Doris Rosier	Appointed	District 5, resides in district 4
Generations Unlimited	Janet Creighton	Re-appointed	At Large 1
Generations Unlimited	Robert Padgett	Re-appointed	At Large 2
Transportation Committee	Henry Smith	Re-appointed	District 6
Zoning Appeals Board	Paula Little	Appointed	District 7, resides in district 3

Economic Development Committee

Councilman Creech said they had discussed recreation and were working through the EDC and the SCA on a recreation initiative.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee had met on July 16th to discuss the potential loan and bonding proposal for the Bond Anticipation Note refinancing and the replacement of the old jail building.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the report dated July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Councilman Houston asked for clarification on the high percentages on line item 00135. Administrator Williams said the overage in percentages was due to overtime and straight time hours. There was discussion concerning what accruals were included in the report and how the accruals for the previous fiscal year was affecting the finance report.

Government, Housing, Science/Technology/Regulatory Matters, and SCRDA Committees

There were no reports for the above Committees.

HealthCare Committee

Councilman Sloan said he had received an email from the IRS concerning an issue related to the Hospital and that he would be contacting the Hospital Board members on giving the attorney the authority to handle the issues with the IRS.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee would be contacting the Municipalities and the School Boards to schedule a date to discuss and move forward with the Gang Task Force.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that some verbiage in the personnel manual may need to be changed due to some of the upcoming healthcare changes in the healthcare law.

Safety Committee

Councilman Creech said the Fire Commission asked if Council was in support of annually recognizing fire fighters that had died during the year. Council decided recognition would take place in November. Administrator Williams asked that his office be provided with a list of names in ample time to make arrangements.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith said that the Animal Shelter had been having problems with parvo since January and were working on plans to power wash and coat the area. They trying to pinpoint which groups were bringing in the animals with the parvo.

Transportation Committee

Chairman Creech said the Airport Commission asked the Finance Committee to consider funding the salaries for their two employees. Councilman Sloan said the Airport Commission was advised during the budget process that the Finance Committee would not recommend funding any shortfall to the Airport and that was presented to full Council. The Finance Committee advised the Airport Commission that the County would pay the salaries but expected to be reimbursed and that when the Finance Committee met in January, the Airport Commission could recast their budget for review. Councilman Smith said the Airport Commission's previous financial statements presented to Council listed gas sales only and that Council needed to see a financial report including monies received for hangar rentals. Chairman Houston said that the Airport Commission had previously told Council there was a waiting list for hangars due to high demand. Councilman Creech confirmed there were no empty hangars. Councilman Sloan suggested that the Economic Development Committee inspect the Airport hangars to ascertain what was being stored in them and to check into competitive rates of other hangar rentals to determine if the rental fees needed to be increased. Councilman Creech said he would bring it up at the next meeting.

New BusinessUpdate of Hazard Mitigation Plan

Administrator Williams said if all six of the lower Savannah Counties agreed to have the LSCOG prepare their hazard mitigation plan updates, it would make a stronger grant application and that each County would need \$3,125 as a match. If approved, he asked that the money come from the Grant Match Contingency budget item and added that having a Hazard Mitigation Plan made the County eligible for FEMA assistance in the case of a major disaster. Councilman Sloan moved that \$3,500 of grant match money be set aside to be used as a match for the FEMA grant. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Resolution to Authorize an Installment Purchase Plan of Finance for Certain Capital Projects

Brent Robertson with Merchant Capital LLC reviewed handouts provided to Council and discussed a financing option that the County could utilize to repay the Bond Anticipation Note and to fund the replacement of the old Jail Building giving clarification on his analysis of the figures which he used to determine the County's ability to make the projected payment. There was discussion regarding the County using the Capital Project Sales Tax to fund the replacement of the Jail Building instead of the financing option that was presented by Mr. Robertson, but it was determined that due to costliness of replacing the Jail, there would not be enough revenue generated by the Capital Project Sales Tax to accomplish any other project and that the citizens

would be unlikely to support the new sales tax if the Jail replacement were the only project. Councilman Kenner confirmed with Brent Robertson and Attorney Kozlarek that financing to borrow for Capital Projects would not cause a millage rate increase and that the goal was to avoid an increase. Councilman Smith moved to approve the Resolution to Authorize an Installment Purchase Plan of Finance for Certain Capital Projects. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes	Councilman Jowers-Absent	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	
Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

Administrator Williams said that replacement of the Jail had been listed each year in the Grand Jury Reports and he asked Council to encourage anyone that had questions concerning the replacement of the Jail to contact Jail Administrator Charlton to schedule a tour to see the facility. Councilman Sloan expressed his appreciation to Representative Lonnie Hosey for his hard work in the County receiving a \$100,000 grant to begin maintenance on Courthouse and his commitment to pursue additional funding from the State for Barnwell County.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Provide an Infrastructure Credit Agreement Between Barnwell County and Barnwell County Hospital Acquisitions Group, LLC

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Hospital Board Membership

Councilman Sloan said the Ordinance was to change the Hospital Board Membership from a 7 member to a 3 member Board structure having 1 member from each school district. This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Concerning Personal Property Used by the Career Center

Administrator Williams said that the Auditor for the Career Center had advised him that the records of the Career Center showed that the personal and mixed property at the Career Center belonged to Barnwell County. Councilman Smith moved to approve the Resolution Concerning Personal Property Used by the Career Center which retroactively transferred ownership of personal and mixed property used at that facility to the Career Center. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

Letter of Appreciation for Beulah United Church

Chairman Houston said that Beulah United Church requested a letter of support and recognition for their building a new church between Elko and Williston. Councilman Sloan moved that the Chair be authorized to send a letter of congratulations to Beulah United Church for their building of a new sanctuary. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter related to the hospital. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

A motion was made to advise the Southern Palmetto Hospital that County Council approved the contract with the Williston Rescue Squad. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes	Councilman Jowers-Absent	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	
Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

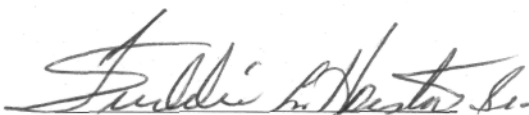
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council



Freddie Houston
Council Chairman