

# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2014

## 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 12, 2014 for its regularly scheduled Council Meeting. In attendance were Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Vice-Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr. and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Attorney Michael Kozlarek and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel.

### ***Public Hearings / Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes / Welcome / Public Comments***

Public hearings were held prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of an Ordinance to sell a lot on Calhoun Street and the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of an Ordinance related to the Capital Project Sales Tax. There were no comments regarding the Ordinance to sell a lot on Calhoun Street. On the Ordinance regarding the Capital Project Sales Tax, three citizens spoke concerning their opposition to it. Council members spoke regarding the need for funds for necessary repairs to facilities listed on the project list, as well as the benefit to the different municipalities in accomplishing their own projects. Council clarified that it was not a property tax and would be paid by everyone, including non-county residents making purchases within the County.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. A motion was made to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session to discuss a pre-contractual matter regarding the Sheriff's Office. The motion was seconded and it passed. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup> Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed.

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

### ***Updates***

#### Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a report, gave an update on upcoming Court sessions and said debt set off would begin soon.

#### Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report and gave an update on the amount of litter and debris that had been collected and said the Department would attempt to have one litter pick up day per week.

#### County Administrator

Administrator Williams gave an update on various Departments. At the Annual Association of Counties meeting, Barnwell County was given the 2014 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for the cooperation displayed between Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell, Jasper Counties following the Pax ice storm.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### Boards and Commissions

Councilman Jowers re-appointed Camella Black to the Recycling Committee. Chairman Houston said some members of various Committees were not attending meetings or active in the Committees to which they were appointed. He asked that Council be in contact with the various Committees to determine if re-appointments were necessary due to inactivity of members.

#### Economic Development, Government, Healthcare, Housing, Judicial, Personnel, Safety, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters and Services

There were no reports for the above Committees.

#### Finance

Councilman Sloan said the Finance Committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Capital Project Sales Tax and to discuss the request of District 19 regarding their financial situation. Based on recommendations from the Finance Committee Councilman Sloan made the following motions:

That Council approve on behalf of School District 19, as a show of moral support with no financial commitment from the County, representatives from Council and the Finance Committee: David Kenner, Administrator

Williams, Keith Sloan and Wendy Gibson meet with the local banks to aid in arranging financing for District 19. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

That Council approve the use of \$186,500 from the Evergreen Account for the bond payment which was due and that it be paid back to the County with an interest rate of 1.75 percent. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

That Council approve the use of the Evergreen Account for the Administrator to pay the \$750,000 unreimbursed clean up expenses due to the Pax ice storm. Councilman Sloan added that the Ordinance creating the Evergreen Fund required borrowed funds be paid in current or subsequent year taxes, so the County needed to develop a re-payment plan and also determine if any grants were available. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

#### SCRDA

A report was distributed by Danny Black.

#### Transportation

Councilman Creech said road right of way is in the process of being condemned and construction would be starting.

#### New Business

##### Finance Committee Recommendation Concerning Axis I

On the recommendation from the Finance Committee, Councilman Sloan moved to approve Axis I using the budgeted \$10,000 grant match for a \$200,000 intervention program. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

#### Old Business

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Sell a Lot on Calhoun Street

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Buckmon abstained.

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Capital Project Sales Tax

Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Sloan moved to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.


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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell  
Barnwell County Administrator



Freddie Houston  
Council Chairman