

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 14, 2011
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 June 14, 2011 in Council Chambers at 6:00 pm. 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, County Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Marty Martin with the EDC, Sheriff Carroll, Rhonda McElveen and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

Public Hearing

The following representatives and citizens from Barnwell County individually presented and read letters of opposition to the proposed 40-20-20-20 revenue split in the fee-in-lieu of tax agreement for Project Tissue:

Mayor Lemon with the City of Barnwell
Mayor Rivers ~~Administrator Carter~~ with the Town of Williston
Rhett Richardson, Vice Chairman of the District 45 School Board
Evelyn Coker from School District 19
Alan Mulligan from School District 29

Mayor Beasley from the City of Blackville expressed that he was opposed to the proposed revenue split and Attorney Tim Moore opposed the proposed revenue split saying that it was not fair to Barnwell County or the School Districts.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum

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

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the Executive Session to after the Updates. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sloan and it passed. Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 3rd and May 26th Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Updates

Marty Martin with the EDC presented his report to Council and commented on the following:

- Doc Depot will be expanding into a Williston facility and creating a significant number of jobs.
- 5 Commerce generated leads are being worked.
- The EDC received a commitment letter from Governor Haley concerning \$1.475 million in CDBG funds for sewer line expansion for Project Tissue. Another letter concerning \$1.6 million from the EDA is expected soon.
- There is a joint effort between the BCEDC and Clemson University concerning the development of the Blackville Industrial Park as an agribusiness park.

Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen gave the following update:

- Family Court would be held the week of June 14th
- 134 cases for failure to pay child support heard
- 21 private cases heard

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- 8 juvenile cases heard
- 14 DSS cases heard
- 14 Bench warrants served
- Civil court would be held the week of June 27th
- \$7,900 had been collected for set off debt
- \$12,000 had been received out of bond escheatment

Sheriff Carroll gave a written update to Council and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Administrator Williams gave the following update:

- Meeting has been held with the architects and engineers related to the Administration Building repairs and all departments would need to vacate the building by mid August. Emergency Management has already moved. A \$17,400 grant was received from Plant Vogtle to assist with moving expenses related to Emergency Management equipment.
- Solid Waste tonnage was approximately 1,100 tons for May. 54.42 tons were removed before shipping to Three Rivers which saved a total of \$1,942.79 for May.
- Over \$100,000 would be received in recycling revenue for the current fiscal year.

Executive Session

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed. There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Sloan nominated Kiran Waraich to serve on the Recycling Committee for District 4. Councilman Jowers nominated Lori Smith to service on the Animal Shelter Board for District 7. Discussion was held concerning appointments to the Axis 1 Board, but due to a possible discrepancy in the names on the Boards and Commissions list, the matter was tabled until the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Government, Housing, Safety, and Services Committees

There were no reports for the above committees.

Finance Committee

Councilman Sloan said that the Finance Committee had met 7 times since May and two additional meetings were scheduled for June 17th and June 22nd. There will be a third reading of the budget at a Special Called Council meeting on June 29th. Councilman Sloan elaborated on the significant losses of revenue during the past three budget cycles and on the measures that the Committee had taken to offset those losses in revenue. He closed by saying that the County had no place left to cut in the budget and there would be an increase in tax rates of 2 mills.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams gave the following update:

- The tax revenue shows about \$492,000 remaining to be received. The homestead exemption reimbursement from the State, and the manufacture exemption were approximately \$463,000 making the County in line with the budget.
- Account 048/00400 and 048/006037 are budgeted revenue accounts. Revenue for the 400 account and the 6037 account is shown as property tax revenue.
- Account 2044 – Contractual services was budgeted for \$1,500 and the County is \$5,600 overspent. This occurred when the Crawler burned and the County hired a contractor with a crawler to cover the C and D material at the landfill.

Health Care Committee

Councilman Jowers said that the draft Asset Purchase Agreement for the Hospital had been received and would need to be looked at further.

Judicial Committee

Councilman Kenner made a motion to accept the Municipal Services Contract for the Williston Magistrate. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner said that the Personnel Committee would be meeting June 24th to continue working on the personnel manual. Councilman Sloan requested that the Personnel Committee look into the paying of Health Insurance Premiums for future County retirees.

Transportation Committee

Councilman Buckmon presented an amended Ordinance Related to the Right-Of-Way On Black River Road which changed the original request from a 40 foot to 33 foot right-of-way. For clarification, Councilman Houston read the amended ordinance to the public. Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jowers. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Tri-County Regional Healthcare Park

Councilman Jowers said that there had been a change in the ordinance reducing the radius of the park from 2 miles to 50 acres. Councilman Jowers made a motion to accept the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Tri-County Regional Healthcare Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Buckmon. Councilman Houston asked if there had been any other discussion with the other Counties. Councilman Jowers said the other Counties had agreed. Councilman Sloan said he believed there were other issues that needed clarification, as the definition of expenses had not been finalized. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

3rd Reading of an ordinance Related to Right-of-Way on Black River Road

This Ordinance was voted on during the Transportation Committee Update.

New BusinessResolution Related to Elkay Wood Products Assuming Medallion Cabinetry, Inc. FILOT

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution Related to Elkay Wood Products Assuming Medallion Cabinetry, Inc's FILOT agreement. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-Yes

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Request from Generations Unlimited

This request was referred to the Services Committee to be reviewed and brought back to Council with a recommendation.

Request to the Budget and Control Board for Re-Districting Assistance

Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve sending a letter to the Budget and Control Board for re-districting assistance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jowers. Discussion was held by Council as to what type of assistance was being asked for, as well as the cost for the assistance. Administrator Williams stated that the assistance would be for the drafting of the re-districting lines due to the 2010 Census and the cost would be for mileage, travel, and copies. There was further discussion as to having a cap placed on the amount of reimbursement allowed for those expenses as well as making it clear that the County would have the final approval of the re-districting lines that would be drawn. Council requested that Administrator Williams revise the letter to include those items before having the letter signed and mailed. The motion passed.

Municipal Services Contract for Williston Magistrate

This matter was voted on during the Judicial Committee Update.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Tissue

Councilman Sloan made a motion to substitute the previous Ordinance Related to a Fee-Lieu of Tax Agreement for Project Tissue with the red-lined substitute Ordinance included in Council's packet. The motion was seconded. Councilman Houston said that, although he did not like the revenue split arrangement, it would be better to remain in the agreement than to lose an opportunity, and that at any time any of the counties could be removed from the agreement. He said that there was a possibility that other industries would come into the County and that there would be no impact on the school districts or the County for at least 5 years. Councilman Smith said that the revenue split could not be changed without the approval of the other three counties. Councilman Sloan said that State law required that industries locating in municipal city limits have approval from that entity. He stated that the Town of Snelling is opposed to the proposed revenue split of 40-20-20-20 and had sent a letter to Council stating their position. Councilman Sloan said the County had three options; do nothing and lose an industry, vote and put it in Quad County Park II to try to force Snelling in accepting the Park, or vote to put it in another Park with another County. Councilman Buckmon said he was opposed to going against the Town of Snelling's wishes. Councilman Jowers said that it would be 5 years before there would be any impact and that there was no guarantee that Project Tissue would get the financing and that all Council was doing was voting on a Fee-In-Lieu of tax agreement. Councilman Kenner stated that he understood both sides and he was only interested in job creation. Chairman Black said he was for the project and for the jobs. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Black-No

Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Houston-No

Councilman Jowers-No

Councilman Kenner-Yes

Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion was approved.

The motion to use the red-lined substitute ordinance was passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council/Admin. Asst.



Travis Black
Council Chairman