

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 9, 2010  
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 November 9, 2010 in Council Chambers at 6:00PM. Those in attendance were Chairman Thomas L. Williams, Vice Chairman Travis Black, Councilman Freddie Houston, 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.

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Williams announced that a Public Hearing is being held to receive comments prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the following ordinances:

- To Approve the Financing of Facilities for Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority
- To Amend the FY '10-'11 Budget Ordinance

No comments were received.

**Call to Order, Invocation, and Quorum**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams and an invocation was given by Councilman Houston. A quorum was declared.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilman Sloan and seconded by Councilman Houston to amend the agenda by adding "Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding Health Care Improvements" in Executive Session. The agenda was approved as amended.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 30, 2010 Council Workshop and the October 5, 2010 Council meeting were approved.

**Welcome**

Chairman Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged the public's attendance at Council Meetings.

**Public Comment**

Chairman Williams called for comments from the public concerning agenda items. No comments were received.

## **Updates**

### Barnwell County Hospital

Mary Valliant presented the FY '10-'11 Budget for the Barnwell County Hospital. Chairman Williams asked about the forecast of increased revenue listed in the budget. Starsky Bomer indicated that the bad debt had been reduced from 26 percent to 22 percent. Mary Valliant presented the benefits of becoming a "Critical Access Hospital". She stated that the Barnwell County Hospital met all the guidelines and that the program was designed to increase the revenue for small rural hospitals. She stated that Stroudwater projected there would be an increased profit for the Barnwell County Hospital of \$885,000 should it become a "Critical Access Hospital". Chairman Williams asked if there were any negatives involved in the transformation. Mrs. Valliant said the only negative is that there is a 25 bed limit but that it is not an issue as the hospital's patient average is much lower. A motion was made by Councilman Jowers and was seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the FY '10-'11 Hospital budget. The motion passed. A motion was made by Councilman Houston and was seconded by Councilman Smith that the hospital proceed with the application process to become a "Critical Access Hospital". The motion passed.

### EDC

Marty Martin presented his report and was asked the likelihood of getting someone in the Dayco Tech Center by middle of next year. Mr. Martin said that he had spoken with an existing business and that he may be taking them to look at the center on November 15, 2010.

### Sheriff

Sheriff Carroll stated that he had tentatively hired Andrew Frederick for the SRO position in Williston. Sheriff Carroll expressed concern over two products being legally sold in Barnwell and other counties. One product, Four Loco, is the equivalent of a six pack of beer and a pot of coffee in one can. The other product known as K2 / K3 is synthetic marijuana but is being marketed as incense. Sheriff Carroll said and that six states have banned the sale of these products. Discussion was held as to whether they could be banned in Barnwell County. A motion was made by Councilman Sloan and was seconded by Councilman Houston that the County Attorney draft a resolution to be sent to each of Barnwell County's Town Councils requesting that they pass an ordinance to ban K2 and K3 from being sold. A roll call vote was requested:

Councilman Black-Yes.  
Councilman Houston-Yes.  
Councilman Jowers-Yes.  
Councilman Kenner-Yes.

Councilman Sloan-Yes.  
Councilman Smith-Yes.  
Chairman Williams-Yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk of Court

Clerk Rhonda McElveen stated that the initial information for Set Off Debt was sent on November 5, 2010. She stated that the total owed for past due fines and fees is approximately \$25,000,000. She indicated that a percentage of that amount includes restitution. She stated the Register of Deeds would be online January 1, 2011.

Administrator

Administrator Williams said the Assessor's Office was still trying to get more of the data on the website. As of October 28, 2010 the site had 3,891 hits. There was a total of 14 subscriptions. The County issued a large building permit for \$1,891,355 construction value. The building permit fee was a little over \$15,000.

The Detention Center's average daily population was 57 which was a substantial decrease and the 90 day jail list had also decreased.

Rookery, Londe, and Marble Lane have been paved. Poinsettia, as well as the Hospital's parking lot, was scheduled to be paved in the next week.

**Presentation of the FY '08-09 Audit**

Robert Milhouse presented the FY'08-09 Audit. He stated that the County received an unqualified clean audit. Chairman Williams asked if all of the agencies were included in the audit and it was confirmed that they were. Councilman Houston commented that the new software soon to be implemented would alleviate a lot of issues. Councilman Sloan stated that the County seemed to be short staffed and asked if there were any additional solutions aside from more staff that would help. Mr. Milhouse stated that the County would need additional staff to address all control matters that he refers to in the Management Letter. He said the installation of the new software was monumental and would be a good opportunity for the County to assemble a team to create a fiscal management policy which would address internal control issues. Councilman Kenner asked if the software had been reviewed for its longevity and usefulness. Administrator Williams indicated that the software was an upgrade from what the County was currently using and had been used in the schools for approximately 10 to 15 years. A motion by Councilman Sloan and was seconded by Councilman Houston to accept the FY '08-'09 Audit as information. The motion passed.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made and passed that Council enter into Executive Session to discuss a pre-contractual matter regarding health care improvements and a litigation matter.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

## **Open Session**

### **Committee Reports**

#### Boards and Commissions

Councilman Kenner re-nominated Albert Pressley to represent District 19, seat 9 on the Axis I Board. He also re-appointed Lucinda McCormick to represent District 2 on the Equalization Board of Appeals. Charles Epps was approved to represent District 2 on the Fire Commission Board.

#### EDC Committee

There was no report given.

#### Finance Committee

Councilman Houston asked which Elected Officials had not yet reported on where the 3 percent cut was being deducted from their budgets. Administrator Williams indicated that he had not received reports from the Auditor, the Treasurer, or the Probate Judge. A motion was made by Councilman Sloan and seconded by Councilman Houston that Administrator Williams determine where the cuts need to be made and that he make a recommendation to Council in December. The motion passed.

#### Financial Update

Administrator Williams stated that the expenses were approximately 25 percent through September and noted the sale of the Nursing Home accounts for most of the "Other Miscellaneous Revenue" shown on the Financial Report.

#### Government Committee

There was no report given.

#### Health Care Committee

There was no report given.

#### Housing Committee

There was no report given.

#### Judicial Committee

There was no report given.

#### Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner stated that the draft Personnel Manual was nearly complete and would be sent to Council in about a week.

#### Services Committee

There was no report given.

Safety Committee

There was no report given.

Transportation Committee

There was no report given.

**Old Business**

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the FY '10-'11 Budget

A motion was made by Councilman Houston and seconded by Councilman Jowers to approve the ordinance. The motion passed.

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Approving the Financing of Facilities for Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Sloan to approve the ordinance. It was noted that this will not create a financial burden to the County. The motion passed.

**New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Borrow for Capital Projects

The ordinance was read in name only.

Approval of the FY '10-'11 Hospital Budget

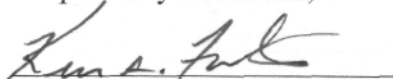
The FY '10-'11 Hospital Budget was voted on and approved during the Hospital Update.

Designation of "Critical Access Hospital"

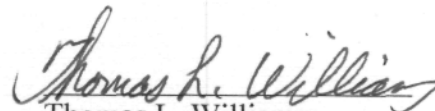
The "Designation of Critical Access Hospital" was voted on and approved during the Hospital Update.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Thomas L. Williams  
Council Chairman