

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
Retreat/Workshop
MINUTES
March 19, 2010

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 in a special called meeting on Friday, March 19, 2010 at 8:00 am. The meeting was held in the Economic Development Commission Conference Room. Those in attendance were Chairman Thomas L. Williams, Vice Chairman Travis Black, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Councilman Freddie Houston, County Administrator Pickens Williams, Jr.. Also in attendance for portions of the meeting were County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, USRDA Jesse Risher and EDC Marty Martin

Call to order, Invocation, and Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams, the invocation was given by Administrator Williams, Jr. and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the additions of a discussion concerning proposed State Legislation related to the Compact Fund and an update on legislation being discussed at the Statehouse.

Council Goals 2010

The goals that were express at February 27, 2009 Retreat were reviewed. The following were considered accomplished or in the process of being accomplished:

- Visit Departments to learn what is going on.
- Department Heads to meet with employees on a regular basis.
- Healing Springs improvements dedication ceremony
- Judicial system cooperation to reduce jail population
- Ask Solicitor for PTI cases
- Anti Gang Task Force
- Reorganize Council Committees and clarify Rules of Procedure.
- Support for "Boys and Girls Club of Southern Carolina".

The goals that were considered ongoing are:

- 4-Lane Highway in the County – Hwy 64 priority
- County-wide water system
- Williston-Elko Community Center
- Inmate/Community Service Assignees pick up litter
- Balanced budget for present and future
- Replenish EDC funds
- Improve road system and transportation services

- Improve health care
- More cooperation between the Nursing Home and Hospital
- Outreach and cooperation with Towns and SRS
- Better EMS service in southern part of County
- Better cooperation between the Rescue Squad and Hospital
- A 5-year plan for improved recreation/Recreation Committee begin meeting
- Cost reduction survey for departments and agencies
- More accountability for the use of funds
- Council approval for all grants
- Internal audit procedures
- Capital projects sales tax
- Better relationship/communication with SRS and DOE
- Quarterly updates from DOE at Council meetings
- Improved Judicial system including issues related to child support violators
- Explore the possibility of a regional hospital
- Send delegation to Columbia and Washington each year
- Improved housing
- Replace old jail building
- Improve recycling efforts
- Tenant for the Blackville spec building
- Temporary relief for citizens who can't pay property taxes
- Review personnel handbook
- Improve job descriptions
- Pursue grants more actively
- Combine school districts
- Completion of GIS project
- Drug court for Barnwell/Bamberg counties

Other goals that were added are:

- Sale of the Nursing Home
- Revise the Fire Commission Ordinance and review the authority of Fire Chiefs
- Litter Clean-Up Days
- Enforce the Tarped Load Laws
- Recycling improvements through the Recycling Committee
- Have billing problems at the Hospital corrected
- Better employee appraisal system for jobs, including idle time
- Better monitoring of janitorial and office supplies
- Revise or eliminate the Grievance Committee
- Enforce attendance requirements for committee meetings
 - o Ask that all minutes, with attendance recorded, be sent to LaToya with a copy sent to County Council
- Better Fire Department accountability; our assistance should be used for their grant applications
- Have a roll call vote upon request of a Council member only-not on all items acted on

- Fire truck for the Long Branch Fire Department

USDA-Rural Development Update

Mr. Risher stated that there is more money than ever available in their agency due to the Stimulus Programs. He stated that loans have no penalties for prepayment. Mr. Risher said that the proposed Williston Elko Community Center, the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Carolina, the proposed Williston Library Improvements and the addition to the Detention Center are projects that would qualify for funding through his agency. A preliminary architectural review would need to be done as soon as possible for the Detention Center in order to meet the 09/30/10 loan application deadline.

Administrator Williams was given the authority to proceed with a contract for architectural services for the Detention Center not to \$33,000.00 for the storm water survey and preliminary design.

Council agreed to Mr. Risher's request that the \$1,837,500.00 commitment that was previously made for an Assisted Living facility be de-obligated.

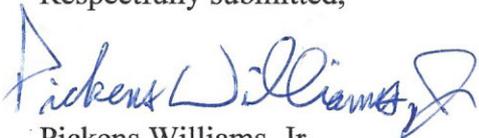
Administrator Williams was asked to send the list of goals to Council members and have them rank their top ten priorities. His office will tabulate the results.

Other topics that were discussed include:

- Have Debbie review all job descriptions
- Have Jesse send a copy of supply records to Department Heads so usage can be monitored
- Have HMO representatives from the State speak with Council concerning HR processes and grievance procedures

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Pickens Williams, Jr.
Administrator Barnwell County

PWJ:lds