

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
December 12, 2017
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 for their regularly scheduled Council meeting on December 12, 2017 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman Lowell Jowers Sr., Vice Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman David Kenner, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Tommy Boyleston and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Creech moved to amend the agenda by adding discussions related to Project Bradley and discussions related to the Administrator's Office to the Executive Session portion of the agenda. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the November 14th and November 16th Council meeting minutes. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments.

Reverend Herman Wallace, Chairman of the Blackville Neighborhood Watch and Ethel Washington, Vice President of the Blackville Community Development Corporation, said that they and other Blackville residents, were concerned about the lack of growth in Blackville and were committed to attending future monthly Council meetings in order to work with Council to determine ways that the County could help in the promotion and support of Blackville.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said DHEC had a statewide emergency drill at the Airport on November 15th and a couple hundred people, including the EOC, the Fire Coordinator, EMS and students from local schools participated. Under Building Inspections, the construction value of the issued building and mobile home permits was \$401,000. Information and pictures were on the County's website showing the progress of various CPST projects. On November 17th and 18th, the Fire Departments performed the annual pump testing. Tire cleanup at the unauthorized disposal site in Elko was complete and work continued on the site in Red Oak. The sites continued to be monitored for any additional tire disposal and none had been noted. Administrator Williams added that this project was grant funded so the labor was being reimbursed to the County.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

There were no appointments.

Government, Science / Tech. & Regulatory Matters, Finance, Housing, Judicial, Services, EDC, Personnel
- No reports were given.

Transportation

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said the Transportation Committee had met in reference to the State's request for an additional \$70,000 from P funds for work on Hwy 78 and Hwy 3. This would bring the total up to \$225,000. Councilman Houston encouraged everyone to attend the TAC meeting on January 18th at the SCA building.

Safety

Councilman Harper said Med Shore had 337 calls in November and of the 225 transports, 151 were taken to Aiken with an average time of 1 hour and 51 minutes per call.

Health Care

Councilman Kenner asked if the hours at the Barnwell Urgent Care had changed and Councilman Creech said they were open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 7 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 9 pm. He said as needs increased, they would extend their hours and that they were on average seeing 35 patients per day.

New Business**Resolution Related to Refinancing Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds**

Administrator Williams said this Resolution was related to the County receiving a better interest rate. Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Related to the Purchase of a Motor Grader

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

Contract Negotiations Related to the Resolution of EDC Issues, Legal Matter Related to the Museum, Potential Contract Negotiations Related to the Hospital Bankruptcy, Matters related to Project Bradley and Matters Related to the Administrator's Office; Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session**Potential Contract Negotiations Related to the Hospital Bankruptcy**

Councilman Houston moved to approve Starpoint digitizing the hospital records at a price not to exceed \$126,000. Attorney Mosteller asked Councilman Houston for clarification on the contracting out to Starpoint and Councilman Houston said that Starpoint had digitized Bamberg County's records and was also familiar with Barnwell County's records as well. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	

Matters Related to the Administrator's Office

Vice Chairman Kinlaw moved to extend the application deadline for the County Administrator's position to January 15, 2018 and that the County's website and any other such avenues for advertising be used as long as it was at no cost to the County. Councilman Houston clarified saying that applications should be turned in to the Clerk to Council to then be delivered to the Chairman. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-No	Councilman Creech-No	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-No	Councilman Kenner-Yes	

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman