

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

September 27, 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 September 27, 2014 at 10 am for a Special Called 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, and Administrator Pickens Williams Jr. Also in attendance were Danny Black, Morgan Reuiss with SCA and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda / Welcome / Public Comments

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. During the Public Comments, Lisa Firmender with Generations Unlimited said the YMCA was moving forward in a positive way and that the YMCA Director would be in Barnwell October 6th. Roland Brant said that he hoped for a positive meeting which would help the young people of Barnwell County.

New Business

Discussion of the YMCA

Councilman Creech moved that the County lease the space vacated by Denmark Tech in the Denmark Tech building to the Barnwell County YMCA for \$1.00 a year for 25 years with all the maintenance and operating costs paid for by the YMCA except the space occupied by Edisto Outdoors. If, in the event the YMCA should default, all property would be returned to Barnwell County. That a letter be sent to CEO of the YMCA, Danny McConnell, on September 29th that the YMCA could start work on the building for the scheduled opening of January 1, 2015. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Sloan confirmed with Councilman Creech that the YMCA would incur all expenses related with the maintenance, operating costs and insurance on the building and also that the County would in no way have any liability connected with the building. Councilman Creech confirmed and said that the CEO and assistant CEO wanted to attend the next Council meeting to give an update on their plans. Councilman Sloan said his concern was that the County would be legally tied to the building and offered an alternative of transferring ownership of the building to the YMCA with the provision that should the YMCA cease operations, the ownership of the property would revert back to the County. He asked that Attorney Mosteller review the agreement, the liability potential and the possible transfer ownership of the property if there could be a liability concern. Council further discussed the need to provide financial assistance to the Boys and Girls Club and assistance to the towns to promote recreation for the children. Councilman Creech said the YMCA would be providing bussing to the towns and was focused on providing scholarships for as many children as possible. Administrator Williams was asked to send a letter to the Mayor of the City of Barnwell advising of Council's decision and asking the City to take actions necessary so the YMCA could proceed. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon – Yes Chairman Houston - Yes Councilman Kenner – Yes Councilman Smith - Yes
Councilman Creech - Yes Councilman Jowers - Yes Councilman Sloan - Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter in Executive Session to discuss a pre-contractual matter related to Project Flower. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

There were no actions taken in Executive Session

Open Session

Councilman Sloan moved to pursue Project Flower and designate Danny Black to be the County's representative along with Parker Poe to pursue the project. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Buckmon – Yes Chairman Houston - Yes Councilman Kenner – Yes Councilman Smith - Yes
Councilman Creech - Yes Councilman Jowers - Yes Councilman Sloan - Yes

The motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pickens Williams Jr., County Administrator

Freddie Houston Sr., Council Chairman