

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
September 8, 2015
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 8, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers Sr., Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Sheriff Carroll, Clerk of Court McElveen, Norma Rockwell and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda & Minutes, 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. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the August 11th Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Updates

Recycling

Norma Rockwell gave an update on the potential cost savings and revenue gain for Barnwell County if recycling efforts were increased. She said "National Recycling Day" would be on November 15th and the Recycling Committee would be hosting its first annual "Recycle Barnwell County Event" on November 14th for all of the communities. There would be a contest with prizes awarded for those with the most recyclables brought in. She asked for Council's support and invited them to attend.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court McElveen gave an update on the Court sessions and said debt set off letters were being mailed.

Sheriff Carroll

Sheriff Carroll distributed his report saying that 505 bags / 7,575 pounds of litter had been collected in August.

Administrator

Administrator Williams said the RFP's for the Courthouse repairs were reviewed recently and had been narrowed down to 7 architects. The Patterson Mill Substation was complete, other than working with 911 so that the dispatch screen would show the correct District. Timbo Williams and Phil Clarke with Medshore discussed the protocols for first responding fire fighters. For the safety of the fire fighters, Medshore would be dispatching a truck to all structure fires. In Public Works, the Williston Road Project would begin soon. Kimberwick had been funded by the CTC and the Public Works employees would be doing the clearing, grading and rock installation. Only a few items were remaining for Rainbow Drive to be complete. The project was being delayed due to difficulties in having the contractor return to complete the remaining items. Councilman Creech said the County was saving money due to the Public Works Department doing much of the paving and asked that future consideration be given to increase the Public Works operators' salaries, adding that it might help prevent the frequent turnover rate, which was due to the low salaries. Administrator Williams said that he would like to see the salaries increased for the employees in Public Works, as well as employees in other Departments. Councilman Smith said many employees were doing great jobs, but were not being adequately compensated for it.

Committee Reports

Government, Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, SCRDA, Finance, Personnel, Economic Development, Housing,
Transportation and Safety

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report for July.

Boards & Commissions

Airport Commission	Re-Appointment of Jud Bing for District 1 - term expiring 2018
Animal Shelter Board	Appointment of Christi Snyder for District 4 - term expiring 2016
Axis 1	Nomination of Conner Parker for District 45, Seat 3
Generations Unlimited	Appointment of Edwin Felton for At Large Seat 2 – term expiring 2016
Recycling Committee	Nomination of Ericka McKnight for District 4 (residing in District 2)

Judicial

Councilman Jowers said the bids received for the Jail's construction were more than what the County had anticipated, so the plans for Replacement Jail Building were being revised to reduce the amount that would need to be borrowed.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said the School Boards were in support of instituting recycling programs. Some of the schools had already begun by using the recycling containers they already had and were applying for a grant to recycle Styrofoam. Additional containers would be needed, so Councilman Buckmon had contacted the Career Center regarding refurbishing some County owned recycling containers that were in need of repair.

Safety

Councilman Creech said that the Safety Committee, Medshore, and the hospital had met to resolve 911 issues. Medshore was having difficulty in hiring qualified personnel and would be working with the Career Center in having classes to train staff.

Old BusinessReplacement of Old Jail Building

Council discussed the issues and dangers of the Jail Building, the urgent need for its demolition and the construction of a Replacement Jail Building. Administrator Williams said 3 bids had been received with the lowest bid being 7.7 million, which was 1.5 million higher than the 6.2 million the County had available. They were working with the architect to reduce some of the costs, such as parking lot paving. The \$400,000 contingency fee had been removed and cost reductions were being made so that a contingency fee of \$100,000 could be added back in. Councilman Houston asked, in terms of borrowing bond money, what the current bonding capacity was. Administrator Williams said he had confirmed with Attorney Kozlerek, that there was enough borrowing capacity for the funds needed. Council discussed the approval of borrowing the bond money. Vice Chairman Sloan said he believed Council needed to meet with the Bond Counsel, as County Council had made substantial commitments related to the hospital, etc and that they needed to review prior obligations before proceeding with borrowing the bond money. Council discussed the cost increases that would result in delaying construction and the need to move forward with the jail's construction. Council concurred that their approval for the borrowing of bond money was unnecessary to begin the jail's construction, as the entire 7.7 million would not be needed up front and, directed that construction on the jail begin immediately.

New BusinessResolution Regarding Elkay Building

Councilman Smith said all of the conditions had been met allowing for the transfer of the Elkay Building back to Elkay Wood Products and moved for approval of this Resolution. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Smith moved that the EDC recommendation concerning Project Marble be approved and that the EDC be given authority to proceed. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Smith moved that the EDC recommendation concerning Project Laser be approved and that the EDC be given the authority to proceed. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Councilman Houston moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the settlement agreement with the EDC Board of Directors. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



David Kenner, Council Chair