

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**March 8, 2016**  
**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 March 8, 2016 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Marsha Gantt and Roger Phillips with the Medical Care Advisory Team and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Councilman Lowell Jowers was unable to attend.

**Public Hearings, Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda & Minutes, Welcome, Public Comments.**

Public Hearings were held prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinances related to Barnwell Solar, Blackville Solar I, Blackville Solar II, Richardson Solar, Elko Solar, and Edison Solar. There were no public comments. The meeting was called to order, the invocation given, a quorum declared and the agenda approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 9th Council meeting. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Billy Brandt, Bobbie Padgett, Ruth Rutland, and Timothy Bodiford opposed the Ordinance related to the Distribution of FILT Revenue in which the County would allocate to the EDC, 5% of its portion received from future multi county industrial park agreements.

**Updates**

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Carroll distributed a report, giving an update on litter collection and the Drug and Gang Task Force.

Administrator

Administrator Williams said there was state wide hazard mitigation funding available due to the flooding that occurred in many of the Counties in October and that the County had applied for a grant for generators for light towers, as well as for funding for dirt roads within the County most affected by flooding. At the Emergency Management Association meeting in February, Emergency Management Director Roger Riley received an award for 2016 Outstanding Contribution to the Profession.

**Committee Reports**

Government, Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, SCRDA, Health Care, Services, Finance, Personnel, Housing, Transportation

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Boards and Commissions

Chairman Kenner appointed Leana Orr to the Library Board, making her seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals vacant. Vice Chairman Sloan moved to recommend the appointment of John Johnson to the SCA Board of Directors. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said construction on the Detention Center was behind schedule due to the weather.

Economic Development

Councilman Smith said that the Economic Development Commission had met March 1<sup>st</sup> at Kronotech and had toured the plant. Councilman Creech confirmed with County Attorney Mosteller that legal fees continued to be charged on the lawsuit involved with the EDC. He moved that charges against the remaining defendant be dropped to avoid further legal fees. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Safety

Councilman Creech said the Safety Committee had met 2 times. The numbers of calls were up from 9 to 11 per day with an increase in the average time on task of 2 to 3 minutes.

**Old Business**

Resolution Related to Capital Project Sales Tax

This matter was tabled to allow Council additional time to decide which 3 persons to recommend for appointment to the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Capital Project Sales Tax

Councilman Houston moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance related to the Distribution of FILT Revenues

Council discussed at length, both in support of and in opposition to, this Ordinance in which 5% of the FILT Revenues would be allocated to the EDC to assist in its operations. Council also discussed the different roles of the EDC and the SCA with opposing views as to the need for the EDC. Councilman Smith moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Creech-No	Councilman Jowers-Absent	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to a FILT Agreement with Swiss Krono SC, LLC (Expansion) and the Second Amendment to the Existing Agreement

Councilman Smith moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinances related to Barnwell Solar, Blackville Solar I, Blackville Solar II, Richardson Solar, Elko Solar, and Edison Solar

Councilman Smith moved to approve the above Ordinances. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Sloan expressed concern regarding the wording "125% of the estimated decommission cost minus the salvageable value, whichever is greater" being included in the bond stipulation in the Zoning Ordinance saying the bond amount should stand on its own without stipulation. Council expressed concerns that the solar farm Ordinances did not include wording that the solar farms would be subject to the pending revisions in the Zoning Ordinance. Council suggested that the matter be tabled until the solar farm Ordinances could be revised to include this wording. Councilman Smith withdrew his motion and Councilman Houston moved that the matter be tabled until the Council meeting in April. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**New Business**

Recommendation from the Medical Care Advisory Team (MCAT)

Councilman Houston commended the Medical Advisory Team for their hard work and expressed his appreciation for their service. Marsha Gantt and Roger Philips presented the Team's proposal for a short term solution to provide emergency healthcare and said that the Team had been limited in finding a solution because Southern Palmetto Hospital had the required certificate of need and could retain its ownership for 330 days thus making having an urgent care facility the only viable option, as it would be impossible for a standalone ER and/or hospital to locate within the County. The Team's 3 phase proposal included Low Country Healthcare's expansion to an urgent care facility which would require extended hours and additional equipment. They commended Low Country Healthcare for the actions they had already taken in assisting the citizens and for their willingness in becoming an urgent care facility.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Amending the Zoning Ordinance Regarding Solar Farms

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the Tri County Park Ordinance Related to Swiss Krono SC, LLC

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Resolution Related to the Quad County Park (Project Beacon)

Councilman Smith moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Resolution Related to the Quad County Park (Project Viltorio)

Councilman Smith moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Sloan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to a Joint County Industrial Park with Aiken County (Project Full Court Press)

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Sell Lot on Calhoun Street.

This Ordinance was read in name only.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Lease Offices at the Health Department

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Consideration of an Amendment to the Hospital Asset Purchase Agreement

Administrator Williams said he had received an email from William Garry with Southern Palmetto Hospital in which SC Healthcare Investments, LLC (SCHI) agreed to relieve the County from the obligation to provide subsidies to SCHI in exchange for the County's agreement to relieve SCHI of the obligation to provide Emergency Medical Services as previously provided for in the Hospital Asset Purchase Agreement. Council confirmed with County Attorney JD Mosteller that the email was a binding document. Councilman Houston moved to approve the Amendment to the Hospital Asset Purchase Agreement. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Consideration of Emergency Ambulances Service Agreement with Medshore

Councilman Creech moved to approve the Emergency Ambulances Service Agreement with Medshore in which the County agreed to pay Medshore \$950,000 annually for a 3 year term. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Sloan expressed concern regarding Council financially obligating the County to a 3 year agreement at \$950,000 annually. Councilman Creech said a 3 year term locked in the price and would prevent it from increasing. Vice Chairman Sloan requested that Medshore be contacted to see if they would be willing for the agreement to be revised to an annual agreement with the option to renew annually for the next two years at a locked in price of \$950,000 with the understanding that Medshore was the sole source provider. Councilman Creech said he would contact Medshore and withdrew his motion.

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

**Executive Session**

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

Consideration of EDC Recommendation to Enter into Contract for Sale of Property

Vice Chairman Sloan moved to accept the recommendation from the EDC to enter into contract for the sale of property. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved that the County proceed with Phase 1 of the recommendation coming from the Medical Care Advisory Team. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Vice Chairman Sloan moved to put the 3rd Reading of Ordinances related to Barnwell Solar, Blackville Solar I, Blackville Solar II, Richardson Solar, Elko Solar, and Edison Solar back on the floor. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the above Ordinances. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-Yes  
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Absent  
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

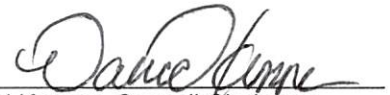
A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



David Kenner, Council Chairman