

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
October 25, 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 October 25, 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. Also in attendance were Adam Bolen, Debbie Fickling, Ben Kinlaw, Rhonda McElveen, James Meadors, and Jason Stapleton. Councilman Jowers and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell were unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given, and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Councilman Houston moved to suspend the rules of procedure to allow question/answer dialogue with the public. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. There were no public comments.

Administrator Williams reviewed the list of County projects listed on the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) referendum. James Meadors with Meadors Inc. presented a PowerPoint presentation and detailed the extent of damage and the need of repair in terms of 3 phases; immediate, short term, and long term.

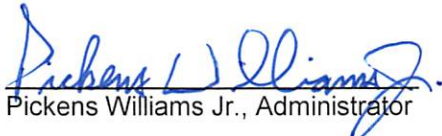
Council discussed their concerns with Mr. Meador regarding the cost of repairs increasing more than the bid proposed and Mr. Meadors said he could not guarantee the cost would remain the same, but felt confident about the bid proposal. Council agreed on the need to begin immediately on the Courthouse due to the severe and increasing deterioration. There was discussion concerning the Courthouse being the second project, the amount of time it would take Meadors to begin repairs once the bid was approved and how much it would cost to repair only the items necessary to prevent further deterioration should the CPST fail. Mr. Meadors said repairs would begin in approximately 3 to 4 months and the cost for only those repairs would be 1.5 million. Vice Chairman Sloan asked Administrator Williams the amount that would be available on the GO bond once the replacement jail was completed. Administrator said that it would be approximately 1.5 million remaining but would be very close with no room for error. Council discussed the inevitability of a millage increase to have the Courthouse repaired should the CPST fail, as the County did not have money in the budget.

After discussion concerning the need for the public to be educated on the CPST, the importance of repairing the Courthouse and the probability of a millage increase if the CPST failed, Council agreed to each contribute their own personal money to place an ad in the paper, and radio advertising to help promote the CPST.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Pickens Williams Jr., Administrator


David Kenner, Council Chairman