

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**November 15, 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 November 15, 2016 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were P.F. Beck, Phil Clarke, Don Harper, Ben Kinlaw, Attorney Kozlarek, Dean Van Pelt, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Councilman Creech was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given, and a quorum was declared. Motions were made to approve the agenda and the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes. These motions were seconded and they passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Ben Kinlaw said Council needed to amend the Rules of Procedure specifying the elections that Council would postpone its meetings for because the June meeting had not been rescheduled due to the advertisement of public hearings but the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was rescheduled. He said that the County's organizational chart needed revision placing the citizens at the top and that the placement of the American flag in the Council Chambers was incorrect.

**Updates**

Capital Project Sales Tax

Attorney Kozlarek said the CPST referendum had passed and if Council approved the Resolution, it would become effective May 1, 2017. The County and the Municipalities would be meeting to discuss the funding process. Council discussed borrowing for the projects, when revenues could be expected and sending merchants a reminder so there would be no lag time in revenues. Councilman Jowers moved to approve the Resolution Declaring Results of the Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Rescue Squad

Phil Clarke said Medshore had met with the Career Center, had been in contact with area technical schools and the Department of Education and was pursuing the possibility of providing an EMT program for high school students at the Career Center. Additional information would be presented at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Promise Zone

Dean Van Pelt, SC Promise Zone Coordinator, gave an update on the Promise Zone's mission, values, near term projects and long term ideas. Some of the near term projects included expanding high speed broadband internet, investing in a forensic lab and training center, as well as developing a mega site to attract businesses.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said bids were received on two new tankers. The older tankers would be used in fire departments with fewer calls. On November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> there would be pump capacity testing in Williston and Barnwell. Fire Coordinator Williams spoke to approximately 300 children at the Fire Prevention Program at various schools. Longbranch Fire Department also held a fire prevention carnival with over 300 people attending. Public Works did all the road preparation for Kimberwick with the exception of the drainage and paving and it was complete.

**Committee Reports**

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Boards and Commissions

Re-appoint	Transportation, District 6	Henry Smith	Term Expires: 2019
Appoint	Transportation, District 1	Woodrow Stroman	Term Expires: 2019
Appoint	Museum, At Large 1	D.J. Washington	Term Expires: 2019

Vice Chairman Sloan said Councilman Jowers would be an ex officio member on the SCA Board in January as he would be the new Council Chairman and moved that Vice Chairman Kenner replace him on the Board effective December 1<sup>st</sup> so as not to lose representation on the Board. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Discussion was held regarding Council's representation on the Board and concurred on waiting until December. Vice Chairman Sloan withdrew his motion.

Health Care, Personnel, Safety, Science, Technology & Regulatory Matters, Transportation

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Government

Chairman Kenner expressed his appreciation for the citizens passing the CPST and looked forward to working with the Municipalities to begin the projects.

SCRDA

Councilman Houston said he heard that the SCA had been asked to determine if they were receiving their percentage of the FILOT from the Counties in the Multi County Park. Vice Chairman Sloan said the SCA would receive 5 percent of the FILOT if new industries come into a county and in Barnwell County there was nothing the SCA would qualify for as their percentage would begin after Orchids.

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the final inspection of the new Detention Center would be on December 19th and would possibly be in operation mid January.

Services

Councilman Buckmon asked Council to review the cost comparison of privatizing the Landfill which had been provided to them. He said funds needed to be set aside to replace the trash truck which continually needed repairs and was handicapping recycling efforts. Councilman Buckmon moved that effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, the hours of operation at the convenience sites be changed to 6 am to 6 pm due to it getting darker sooner. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Sloan suggested monitoring the hour by hour usage for a month as the hours could possibly be reduced per day and the cumulative hours used to be open an additional day. Chairman Kenner called for a vote. The motion passed. Vice Chairman Sloan asked that the usage be monitored hour by hour for future use.

Finance

Councilman Houston moved to approve the Resolution approving financing for a backhoe and a van. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

EDC

Councilman Smith moved to approve the lease with Swiss Krono for the Kelly Street Building in Williston and said improvements to allow ground level entrance to unload trucks were needed. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. Councilman Jowers asked Attorney Mosteller if he had reviewed the lease. Attorney Mosteller said he drafted the lease and had revised it five times with Swiss Krono. Both Councilman Jowers and Councilman Buckmon said they had not seen the lease prior to the Council meeting and wanted to review items before voting on them. Councilman Smith said because of the revisions, it was not able to be provided sooner. Council concurred on needing agenda items prior to the Council meeting so they could be reviewed. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Councilman Smith said Project Laser was vacating and removing their equipment from the building in the Blackville Industrial Park. A different company was interested in leasing the building once it became vacant. The EDC contracted with AECOM to update the wetlands and parks and had partnered with SCA to do a retail study for downtown Blackville. Councilman Smith moved to approve EDC's request for \$52,152 from Chem Nuclear Surcharge Fund for the projects in the application request. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Sloan suggested including an additional \$10,000 so that a retail study could be done in Williston and Barnwell also. Councilman Smith amended his motion increasing the total request to \$62,000. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Vice Chairman Sloan asked if the monies had been deposited in the Treasurer's Office in compliance with the Monetary Ordinance approved by Council at their November meeting. In response, Councilman Jowers read the proposal attached to this set of minutes. Councilman Smith asked if Council had been provided with a copy of the proposal and Councilman Jowers said he had just received it himself before the meeting. In response to the proposal regarding Airport grant requests being handled in a timely manner, Councilman Houston said grants should be given to Attorney Mosteller well in advance so he could review them. In response to the proposal regarding forgiveness of back salaries, Vice Chairman Sloan said the County's forgiveness of money in the past he'd not had a problem with, but that the approximately \$135,000 in back salaries owed to the County was on the books as a receivable and if Council agreed to write it off, it needed to be charged to the expenses in the current year and the budget would need to be amended. Councilman Houston said the debt continued to be carried on the books and that the Finance Committee could meet to discuss the request.

Vice Chairman Sloan said it would not be appropriate as a motion but that there needed to be a consensus of Council that they would work with the Airport Commission in the framework of the proposal and because Mr. Beck said he wanted a notarized statement from Council before writing a check to the Treasurer, Vice Chairman Sloan suggested Council give him a statement. Councilman Jowers made a motion that Council give Mr. Beck a statement. Vice Chairman Sloan responded that he did not think it needed to be a motion but a consensus of what Council would do. Councilman Jowers said there needed to be a motion that Council was in agreement and would abide by the Airport's proposal. Councilman Houston said it could be a motion but that he believed the Chairman should make it a common consent of Council. Vice Chairman Sloan said if a motion, making it an official act of Council, that a letter be sent authorizing Mr. Beck to turn over the money would give him peace of mind, it could be made. Councilman Jowers concurred and Vice Chairman Sloan asked if he was making that his motion. Councilman Jowers confirmed and Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Houston if Councilman Jowers could restate the purpose of the motion. Councilman Jowers said the motion was to give the Airport assurance that the Council was going to abide by the proposal he read earlier. Vice Chairman Sloan said he thought the motion was to have the Chairman send a letter to Mr. Beck instructing him to turn the money over to the Treasurer and the proposal was separate, not as a motion, but as a consensus of Council. Councilman Jowers made a motion that Council send a letter to Mr. Beck. Vice Chairman seconded the motion. Councilman Jowers added to the motion that Council would abide by the proposal. Vice Chairman Sloan said that members of the Airport Board had heard the consensus of Council regarding the proposal but needed for their official records to authorize the Chair to send Mr. Beck a letter instructing him, consistent with the ordinance, to immediately deposit the funds in the accounts with the Treasurer. Councilman Smith said if that was a motion he would second it. Councilman Houston said no motion was needed, just that Council agreed the Chairman send a letter to the Airport Board supporting the record. Chairman Kenner concurred and said an Ordinance had already been passed to have the money transferred and that he did not want to set precedent with Council negotiating with Boards Council was responsible for.

**New Business**

Resolution Declaring Results of Capital Project Sales Tax - Approved during Attorney Kozlarek's update.

Consideration of EDC Lease with Swiss Krono - Approved during the EDC Committee report.

Economic Development Fund Request from EDC - Approved during the EDC Committee report.

Request from Blackville CDC for Grant Match Funds

Councilman Smith moved to approve this request from the Blackville CDC. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

Resolution Approving Financing for Backhoe, Vehicle - Approved during the Finance Committee report.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



  
David Kenner, Council Chairman

*modified record*

**The Airport Commission agrees to turn over both airport accounts, less the \$30,000 approved and stated in Ordinance 2016-9-334-0.**

**Any checks above \$30,000 must be signed by County Treasurer and Chairman of Airport Commission with approval of County Council. The Airport will continue to handle day to day expenditures for operation of the airport, as before, out of the \$30,000 allotted in the Ordinance.**

**The Airport Commission will write the County a check for 1/2 of both Airport Manager and Lineman's salaries on January 1st and the other 1/2 half on July 1.**

**County agrees to forgive all back salaries and to leave all money as transferred to the Treasurers office in the appropriate accounts**

**Airport Commission will submit a detailed budget request to the County Finance Committee each April.**

**The Airport Manager will submit each month, a copy of the Airports bank statement to the County Finance Director, to the County Treasurer and to the County Administrator.**

**All FAA or State grant requests are to be handled by all parties, quickly and professionally to ensure no grant money is lost.**