

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
February 9, 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 February 9, 2016 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., and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Betty Prime and Fillmore Wilson with Meadors Conservation, Steven Brown, Founder and President of the DIG STEM Program 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, a quorum declared and the agenda approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 12th and January 25th Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Updates

Courthouse Repairs

Betty Prime and Fillmore Wilson presented a slideshow of the damage to the Courthouse, giving a detailed analysis of the causes of the building's deterioration, a prioritization of areas needing more immediate attention, and recommendations concerning building repairs.

DIG STEM

Steven Brown said there would be a DIG STEM fair in Williston on April 23rd. He outlined the program's purpose and activities, giving examples of how it was having a positive impact on children, especially in rural areas. He asked for Council's consideration in providing financial support.

Administrator

As a result of the assistance that Emergency Management Director Roger Riley gave to other Counties affected by the flood, the County received an award at the January 27th SCAC Conference. The tanker the Fire Commission had acquired from Aiken was already in use and was at the Long Branch Fire Department. Medshore was seeking firemen who would be interested in taking Medshore and Red Cross training. Later in the year, there would be a smoke detector drive with the Red Cross donating smoke detectors and firemen installing them in the residences of persons in need. Public works was doing grading work on Kimberwick and it was almost complete.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions, Government, Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, SCRDA, Judicial, Personnel, and Housing

There were no reports for the above Committees.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Healthcare

Councilman Houston said the Medical Care Advisory Team had a productive and informative meeting. He said the group would continue to meet and once they had a recommendation, they would present it to Council.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said the schools recycling programs were progressing well. There had been some break-ins at the Landfill and they were looking at solutions.

Finance

Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee had met regarding providing financial support for the DIG STEM Program. Coming as a recommendation from the Committee, he moved for Council to approve a donation between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Economic Development

Councilman Smith said the EDC was continuing to work with Doc Depot regarding its delinquency. The closing for the Sara Lee building would be soon. The EDC was continuing to work with a group out of Atlanta regarding Climax Global in the Blackville Industrial Park.

Transportation

Councilman Smith said work was continuing on Kimberwick, the Williston Road project was progressing well and more projects were being planned.

Safety

Councilman Creech said the Safety Committee had met on January 22nd and February 8th and would continue to meet every two weeks. In an agreement with Medshore and the Sheriff's Department, LifeNet Emergency Transport would dispatch a helicopter to the County when needed, at no cost to the County and would possibly have a helicopter stationed in the County, if needed. Medshore operations were running smoothly.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinances related to Project Beacon XVII (17), & XVIII (18) XIX (19), XX (20), XXI (21), XXII (22)

Councilman Smith said the EDC was working to make certain the power produced by the Solar Farms could be sold. Vice Chairman Sloan said a clause requiring a bond or escrow, needed to be included in each of the ordinances before their 3rd reading to protect the County from potential clean up costs should the farms become decommissioned. Councilman Smith moved to approve the 2nd reading of the above ordinances. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

Resolution Related to Capital Project Sales Tax

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

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to Capital Project Sales Tax

This ordinance was read in name only.

Request from Blackville CDC related to Grant Match Funding

Vice Chairman Sloan said that when the \$10,000 had been budgeted for grant match funding, it had not been designated to any particular organization and that although he supported matching a grant for the Blackville CDC, he was unaware of any grant having already been awarded to them and recommended that the request for \$5,000 be tabled until the Blackville CDC had a grant to match, thereby allowing the funds to be available to other organizations should they need a grant match. Councilman Houston said that the Blackville CDC would be receiving grants, but would need assurance that the grant match funding was available before applying. Councilman Smith moved that the \$5,000 grant match be approved for the Blackville CDC's use, with the funds being disbursed once a grant was awarded. Any unused funds would not be carried over into the '15-'16 FY. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

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

The motion passed.

1st Reading of an Ordinance related to the Distribution of FILT Revenues

This ordinance was read in name only.

Request from Southern Palmetto Hospital

Council discussed the Hospital's request that the County release them from their financial obligation in providing rescue services. Council concurred, that before they would approve a release, the Hospital needed to first release the County from its financial obligation to the Hospital for rescue services. Vice Chairman Sloan moved that Council approve the Hospital's request for a release, pending the County receiving a release from the Hospital for the County's financial obligation to the Hospital regarding providing rescue services.

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.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

David Kenner, Council Chairman