

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**April 11, 2017 - 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 April 11, 2017 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman Lowell Jowers Sr., Vice Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman David Kenner, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance was Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, the invocation was given, and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> Council meetings. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Brett Bell said although he knew the municipalities had filed suit against the County, he supported the EDC Ordinance Council had approved at their March meeting and he read excerpts from two letters sent to Don Harper by former EDC Commission member, Billy Bolen in which Mr. Bolen questioned any benefit the EDC brought to the County.

**Updates**

**Administrator's Update** – Administrator Williams said with a \$15,000 grant, the County purchased concrete and Public Works and Solid Waste employees paved a 70'x70' area at the Transfer Station. Emergency Management had a close out on a \$46,000 grant for a \$61,000 jail generator. State Emergency Management had assisted the Barnwell Emergency Management in receiving \$80,000 in reimbursement for costs incurred due to Hurricane Matthew. In response to Councilman Creech, Administrator Williams said some reimbursement for Pax Ice Storm costs was in the Senate budget but would need to be in the House budget also.

**Financial Update** - Administrator Williams reviewed the Financial Report.

**Committee Reports**

**Boards and Commissions** – The following appointments were made:

Councilman Houston – Appointment of Willie Thomas O'Neal - Zoning Appeals Board (Term expires 2020)

Councilman Houston – Re-appointment of Patricia Owen Rodgers – Generations Unlimited (Term expires 2020)

Councilman Kinlaw – Re-appointment of Leroy Williams – Transportation Committee (Term expires 2019)

Councilman Creech – Nomination of James Willis Kears – Economic Development Commission, #19 At Large

Chairman Jowers – Nomination of Carol Padgett (resident of District 6) – Axis 1, District 4

**Government, Science Tech. & Reg. Matters, Housing, Economic Development, Personnel** – No reports.

**Transportation** – Vice Chairman Kinlaw said the Transportation Committee had met and voted unanimously for Willie Walker to be Committee Chairman. The Committee would begin meeting again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly. Councilman Houston said he was going to contact the Department of Transportation to request a "stop ahead" sign be installed before the curve on Long Branch Road where it intersected with Woodrow Doby Road. He said it was a dangerous situation as you could not see the stop sign because of the curve and that there was a bus stop near the intersection.

**Safety** – Councilman Harper said the Safety Committee had met with Medshore. From 2/1/17 to 3/1/17 Medshore had 498 calls which was an 18% increase from the previous month.

**Finance** - Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee would be meeting to begin the budget process. There was discussion regarding Departments/Agencies submitting their budget requests on time.

**Judicial** – Councilman Buckmon said several Departments/Agencies needed additional office space.

**Services** – Councilman Buckmon said the trash truck was broken again and needed to be replaced as the public was complaining and the County was losing money in uncollected recyclables. Solid Waste Director, Joe Lott, was looking for a replacement truck. Councilman Buckmon said the County needed to find an alternate solution until a replacement truck could be purchased. He and Joe Lott had spoken with Life Cycle Solutions and asked that Administrator Williams look into the logistics and negotiate a price.

**Healthcare** – Councilman Creech gave an update provided to him by Heritage Healthcare on their anticipated opening date.

**Old Business**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Utility Lines Under County Maintained Roads** – Councilman Creech moved to approve this ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**New Business**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Amending and Clarifying Ordinance 2017-3-342-O To Modify the Duties and Powers of the Barnwell County Economic Development Commission and to Dissolve the Barnwell County Economic Development Corporation** – This ordinance was read in name only.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Lease Office Space in the Health Department** – This ordinance was read in name only.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Transfer Hair Cemetery Road to Hair Cemetery Trustees** – This ordinance was read in name only.

**Request Regarding Elkay Building** – Councilman Houston moved to table this agenda item to allow the County Attorney to receive an opinion from Bond Counsel. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution Expressing Concern Over Fiscal Impact of H.3726** – Councilman Houston moved to approve this resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the FY '17-'18 Budget Ordinance** – This ordinance was read in name only.

**Resolution to Approve Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement** – Councilman Harper moved to approve this resolution. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution to Designating May 2017 as Litter Awareness Month in Barnwell County** – Vice Chairman Kinlaw moved to approve this resolution. The motion was seconded and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman