

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
May 9, 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 May 9, 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 were Tommy Boyleston, Mary Joe Dawson, Attorney Matthews, Kay Maxwell, Lacinda McCormick, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given. A quorum was declared and a motion was made to approve the April 11th and April 19th Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and it passed. Councilman Creech presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Matt Mullen with the YMCA. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none. Councilman Creech moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Southern Carolina Alliance – Kay Maxwell with SCA and Tommy Boyleston with the EDC gave an update on ongoing and prospective projects.

Library – Mary Jo Dawson gave an update on the services/programs that the Library offers, as well as FY '16 statistics.

Aiken/Barnwell Mental Health – Lacinda McCormack said May was Mental Health Month and gave an update on the statistics and services provided by Aiken/Barnwell Mental Health.

Administrator's Update – Administrator Williams said the HVAC units at the Museum and the Solicitor's Office were replaced. Calhoun County and Barnwell County Building Inspectors would be doing the building inspection of the Swiss Krono addition. The Fire Department displayed extraction equipment at the DIG STEM Festival.

Financial Update - Administrator Williams reviewed the Financial Report.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions – The following appointments were made:

Councilman Creech - Appointment - Will Kearse – EDC – At Large #19 (Term expires 2020)

Councilman Kenner - Appointment - Bishop George Burckhalter - Transportation Committee - Distr 2 (Term expires 2019)

Councilman Harper - Appointment - Debbie Melton - Career Center - District 29 (Term expires 2019)

Science, Tech. & Reg. Matters, Safety, Housing, Healthcare, Economic Development, Personnel – No reports.

Government – There was no Committee report. Councilman Kenner said lawsuits had been filed against SCE&G regarding excessive fees and asked that Council pay close attention to their bills. Councilman Houston recommended that the Government Committee meet with a Representative from Senator Scott's office regarding the DOE payment and moved for approval of related travel costs. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

Finance - Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee had met on May 4th and would meet again on May 10th. Administrator Williams said the '17-'18 Budget had \$300,000 more in expenses than in revenues.

Judicial – Councilman Buckmon said several Departments/Agencies were in need of additional office space.

Services – Councilman Buckmon said he would email Council a proposal for privatizing the Landfill and that he was getting estimates on installing lights at the convenience sites so changing operating hours would be unnecessary during Daylight Savings Time. Councilmen Buckmon and Harper would meet with Kronotex regarding debris complaints.

Old Business

3rd 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 - Councilman Creech moved for the 3rd reading of this Ordinance with the version 3 amendment. Councilman Houston seconded the motion for the necessary corrections on the Ordinance. Councilman Kenner asked for clarification of the corrections. Attorney Mosteller said there were grammatical corrections and clarifications included in the version 3 amendment, as well as the provision that each of the municipalities would be able to veto a transfer from the County to a 3rd party economic development group. Attorney Mosteller confirmed that the motion on the floor was to approve the amendments being made to the Ordinance. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-No	

Councilman Creech moved to approve the 3rd reading of the Ordinance. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-No	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-No	

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Transfer Hair Cemetery Road to Hair Cemetery Trustees – Councilman Creech moved to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Regarding the sale of Airport Cemetery plots, Councilman Houston said an ordinance allowed the sale of 2 instead of 4 plots, but the location was to be in a portion of the cemetery designated by the County and not the option of the purchaser.

2nd Reading of the FY '17-'18 Budget Ordinance – Councilman Creech confirmed with Administrator Williams that the Personnel Committee recommendation was included in the budget. Councilman Houston moved to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

Schedule Date for the 3rd Reading of the '17-'18 Budget Ordinance – Council scheduled a Special Called Meeting on June 22, 2017 at 6 pm to have the 3rd reading of the budget ordinance.

Letter of Support for the Blackville CDC – Councilman Kenner moved for Council to approve Chairman Jowers sending a letter of support for the Blackville CDC to the SC State Housing Authority. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Intergovernmental Agreement Related to Cog Planning Grant – Councilman Houston moved to approve this Agreement. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

Consideration of Loan to Heritage Healthcare – Councilman Creech said Heritage Healthcare “HH” rejected the terms of the \$125,000 loan proposal drafted by Attorney Mosteller and had presented a counter proposal without conditions. Repayment would consist of their providing approximately \$2,034 per month in indigent healthcare instead of paying the County the \$125,000 back directly. Administrator Williams had not yet received information from the Department of Health and Human Services as to whether the \$189,000 the County was already paying yearly for indigent care could be reduced because of the \$125,000 loan. Councilman Creech said “HH” would be open 7 days a week, 10 am-7 pm and that Sharon Wise would partner with “HH”, adding another nurse practitioner and would be open 5 days a week, 10 am-7 pm. Chairman Jowers said urgent healthcare was unavailable for the major industries. Councilman Houston said the County would not gain anything as “HH” was already required to provide indigent care and would be using the providers (staff) already in Barnwell. Councilman Kenner said the rescue squad would be prohibited from utilizing “HH” as it was not an emergency room and that Council had not wanted to loan the former hospital money due to financial constraints. Councilman Buckmon said the money should be given proportionately. Vice Chairman Kinlaw confirmed with Councilman Creech that “HH” had invested \$500,000. Council referred the matter to the Safety Committee to negotiate with “HH” and approved the \$125,000 loan with the provision that it be paid back directly to the County- not through indigent care, within a specified time, with no interest. Councilman Houston made a motion to this effect. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	

Landfill Increase - Councilman Buckmon moved that effective August 1st, the (In-County and Out-of County) Landfill disposal fees for C&D material be increased to \$35 per ton and Industrial Waste to \$45 per ton. The motion was seconded and it passed.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council





Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman