

BARNWELL COUNTY, SC COUNCIL
September 11, 2018
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 for its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on September 11, 2018 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 Tim Bennett, and County Attorney JD Mosteller. Also in attendance were Business Manager Debbie Fickling, President and CEO Charles Williams and Interim Associate Vice President Kathy Rhoad of the Regional Medical Center Orangeburg, SC, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Clerk to Council Kim Futrell was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation and the pledge of allegiance were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. Councilman Houston moved to amend the agenda by removing the update on the Crisis Response Initiative. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the amended agenda. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech moved to approve the August 21st Council meeting minutes. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none. Council sang happy birthday to Chairman Jowers.

Special Presentations

Councilman Buckmon presented a Resolution to Judge Dale Moore Gable in recognition of her retirement from the Family Court. Judge Gable said it had been an honor serving the citizens of Barnwell County and that she'd had the pleasure of working with many wonderful people. Councilman Buckmon presented a Resolution and wristwatch to Issie Johnson in recognition of her retirement from the Barnwell County Detention Center. Ms. Johnson thanked County Council and said she had enjoyed her years of service. Councilman Houston presented a Resolution in memory of Mae DeVoe Johnson Fields to her husband and expressed Council's condolences. Councilman Houston said Ms. Fields had always been an active person, seeking to help people and it had been a pleasure to have known her. Mr. Fields said he and Mrs. Fields had been married nearly 25 years and that she had been a wonderful wife and person.

Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center (BBEMC)

CEO Williams said construction of the BBEMC was nearly complete and would be open in December. Over \$8 million had been invested in the facility and it would have an operational budget of \$5 million. Councilman Creech said the closing of the Barnwell County hospital put 160 employees out of work and he asked if the BBEMC would be hiring any of those employees. CEO Williams said he did not have contact information for those employees and that the job openings were posted on the Regional Medical Center's (RMC) website. Councilman Creech said the YMCA had a physical therapist and asked if the BBEMC would work with the YMCA when patient follow up care was needed. CEO Williams said the RMC was open to collaboration for follow up care and that he hoped that additional medical offices would locate on the 10 acres of property surrounding the BBEMC. Councilman Creech said the County's cost for indigent care had been \$260,000 and asked how credit for indigent care would be distributed between the counties. CEO Williams said the BBEMC tracked patients by their address and that information would be provided to the State and to the Department of Health and Human Services so that it could be properly allocated between the counties. Councilman Kenner asked who would be providing the TeleMed and if there were marketing plans for the BBEMC. Ms. Rhoad said MUSC would be providing the TeleMed and advertising would begin in October/November. For clarification, Councilman Houston said the County did not pay for indigent care, but rather the County did not receive money from the State when its residents went outside the County for medical care. CEO Williams referenced his previous request for the County's assistance and said his intent had been to ask that Barnwell County assist in any way possible, be it financially or through some type of service, and that his goal was to build trust with the County and to create a sustainable solution to serve the citizens of the community. Administrator Bennett said the Finance Committee had met and was recommending that the County assist in the marketing effort by encouraging County employees and Barnwell County citizens to utilize the BBEMC. Councilman Houston moved that Administrator Bennett and Business Manager Fickling pursue ideas on how the County could assist marketing of the BBEMC. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Administrator's Update

After reviewing the Administrator's Report which had been provided in the Council packet, Administrator Bennett requested Council's approval of having the LSCOG prepare the Hazard Mitigation Plan at a cost of \$5,000 and for approval of a Debris Monitoring Contract. Councilman Houston moved for approval of the LSCOG preparing the Hazard Mitigation Plan and for approval of the Debris Monitoring Contract. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Financial Update

Administrator Bennett said Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, as chairperson of the County's Forfeited Land Commission, was successful in a property-related mediation that was expected to result in substantial funds to the County. Auditor Gwen Kinard was in the process of recouping funds from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Additionally, Business Manager Fickling had contacted the State Reserve Fund, and the County would be recouping approximately \$54,000 of the legal fees spent on the EDC litigation.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Houston re-appointed Jud Bing to the Airport Commission for District 1. For District 6, Councilman Buckmon nominated Milton Harden to the Museum Board and Rhonda Priester to the Library Board.

Government, Safety, Finance, Housing, Judicial, EDC, and Personnel - No reports.

Science/Tech. & Regulatory Matters

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said the Communications Director for Plant Vogtle would be speaking at the next "Up and Atom" breakfast on September 20th.

Transportation

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said Herb Cooper with the SCDOT had attended the Transportation Committee meeting and made a proposal which the Transportation Committee was reviewing and would be making a recommendation on.

Finance

Councilman Houston moved to allow Denmark Tech to apply for \$5,000 of the budgeted \$10,000 grant match funding, with the restriction that the \$5,000 be used at the Barnwell County campus. This grant match would allow Denmark Tech to receive \$500,000 allotted by the General Assembly for the purchase of welding and nursing equipment for the Barnwell, Allendale, and Bamberg Campuses. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston asked Administrator Bennett to contact the Blackville CDC regarding re-submitting their request for grant match funding.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said that the Landfill only had enough dirt to last 5 to 6 years and that Council needed to develop a strategic plan to purchase the property adjoining the Landfill. Councilman Buckmon confirmed with Administrator Bennett that the Landfill was no longer accepting black dust. Councilman Buckmon said vehicles were speeding at the Landfill and it was becoming a safety concern. Administrator Bennett said traffic control would be discussed at the September 17th Services Committee meeting. Administrator Bennett said Joe Lott had repaired some of the dumpsters and the Career Center would also be making repairs. Business Manager Fickling and Joe Lott were locating the 8 new dumpsters that had been ordered.

Health Care

Councilman Creech said regionalizing EMS service would be discussed at a meeting in October. Councilman Creech said members of the Safety and Healthcare Committees needed to attend the meeting.

Old Business

3rd and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2016-6-329-A-O Providing for Financing of the Barnwell County Economic Development Commission

Councilman Creech moved to approve the 3rd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Harper seconded the motion. Councilman Buckmon expressed concern regarding the portion of the title wording "Providing for Financing of the Barnwell County Economic Development Commission". Attorney Mosteller suggested eliminating that portion of the wording so that the title would read "3rd and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2016-6-329-A-O". Councilman Houston moved to approve the 3rd reading of the Ordinance with the title revisions. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

2018 Millage Resolution

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech asked if future millage, regarding the Career Center, could be distributed to the three school districts. Council concurred that the distribution was determined by the Legislative Delegation. Vice Chairman Kinlaw suggested Council encourage the Legislative Delegation to change the manner of distribution.

Resolution Requesting the Barnwell County Legislative Delegation to Support and Advocate an Override of Governor Henry McMaster's Veto of the FY 2018-19 State Budget Proviso No. 100-21 that Provides Funding to Local Governments for the Non-Federal Match for Winter Storm PAX

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Executive Session

The Receipt of Legal Advice Where Legal Advice Relates to Matters Covered by Attorney/Client Privilege, Discussion of Employment, Appointment, Compensation, Promotion, Demotion, Discipline or Release of an Employee Regulated by a Public Body

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Timothy R. Bennett, Administrator



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr. Council Chairman