

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**March 13, 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 their regularly scheduled Council meeting on March 13, 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 Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Pickens Williams Jr., Dr. Chris Hall, Phil Clarke and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. County Attorney Mosteller was unable to attend.

A public hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of an Ordinance to Rent Space at the Health Department. There were no comments.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded. Administrator Bennett requested the agenda be amended to include a Resolution provided by First Citizens enabling him to be an authorized signer on the account. Councilman Houston moved to amend the agenda. Councilman Kinlaw seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to approve the minutes for the February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked Chairman Jowers why, in his letter to the SC Ethics Commission in which he was requesting a ruling on whether or not he could vote on his sister in law, he had mentioned that Councilman Houston's wife worked for the County. Chairman Jowers said he meant nothing personal against Councilman Houston or his wife but was seeking clarification. Councilman Houston said he wanted it on record in the minutes that the ruling from the SC Ethics Commission prohibited Council from voting on family members, be it a spouse or an in-law. Chairman Jowers concurred. The motion to approve the minutes for the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the minutes for the February 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the minutes for the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech presented Pickens Williams Jr. with a wristwatch and a Resolution recognizing his retirement from the County.

Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. George Burkehalter said long distance drivers were using residential areas as a thoroughfare and that their trucks were damaging the roads in the residential areas throughout the County. Vice Chairman Kinlaw said he would look into the matter and would report back to Council.

#### **Denmark Tech**

Dr. Chris Hall updated Council on the college's statistics and the steps being taken to rectify previous issues to improve the college. In addition to the main campus in Bamberg, there was a satellite campus in Barnwell, dual enrollment courses in the Barnwell County high schools, a welding course in Allendale and in Williston there was "Project Lead The Way" which was a STEM program geared around mechatronics and engineering. Dr. Hall asked for Council's support in opposing the State's proposal for OC Tech to take over Denmark Tech as he believed OC Tech would consolidate and close the Denmark Tech campus which would result in a loss of jobs and deter college enrollment due to lack of transportation and the distance involved.

#### **Medshore**

Phil Clarke introduced Medshore's new Regional Manager Gary Coverton and reported that in 2017 Medshore had responded to 5,131 calls with an average response time of 13 minutes and 9 seconds. Average time on task was just over 2 hours which included transport requests to Columbia and Charleston. Medshore had begun an employee hiring/referral bonus program to counter staffing shortages, had partnered with Priority Ambulance Family, was working closely with Air Methods and had participated in a mass casualty drill with Emergency Management and the Fire Departments. In 2018 Medshore planned on more community involvement by doing training on CPR in the schools, churches and local organizations, proper car seat installation, offering First Responder courses and if funding were available, offering EMT courses. Additionally a 5<sup>th</sup> non-emergency ambulance would be stationed in Barnwell Monday through Friday from 4 am to 5 pm to help alleviate the strain on the 4 ambulances currently in Barnwell 24/7.

**Administrator's Update**

- Administrator Bennett said he would be meeting with each of the Department Heads and planned to meet with each of the Council Members to tour their Districts.

**Financial Update**

Administrator Bennett reviewed the financial report and said in terms of revenue the numbers appeared to be right on target.

**Committee Reports****Boards and Commissions**

Appointed to Museum Board for District 7	Jane Bradley (District 5 resident)
Appointed to Animal Shelter for District 3	Lauren Dangerfield (District 4 resident)
Appointed to Career Center for District 45	Eve Hogarth
Reappointed to Airport for At Large Seat	Sam McKay
Reappointed to Library Board for District 1	Sylvia Quattlebaum
Reappointed to Equalization Board of Appeals for District 1	Ronnie Tobin
Reappointed to Equalization Board of Appeals for District 2	Sandy Smalls

Councilman Houston asked Councilman Creech about the at large nominations he had made at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for the Recreation Board as the Ordinance that created the Recreation Board did not include at large seats. Councilman Kenner said, in reference to the Recreation Board, he thought the Board may end up being a totally different set up, but in the interest of moving things forward he was appointing William Youngblood for District 2. Coming as nominations from the February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, Councilman Creech moved to appoint Pickens Williams Jr. (District 1), Richard Boatwright (District 3), Robert Collins (District 4) and William Nix (District 5) to the Recreation Commission. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked, in reference to what Councilman Kenner had suggested regarding the set up of the Committee, if the Committee would be a quasi public/private organization or a Council Committee. Councilman Creech said the plan was that the Committee would have an account in the Treasurer's Office that Council would oversee. After some discussion, Council Houston moved to have the matter tabled to consult with Attorney Mosteller.

**Government, Science/Tech. & Regulatory Matters, Finance, Housing, Judicial, Safety, Services, EDC, Personnel** - No reports were given.

**Transportation**

Councilman Kenner said the new traffic light on Hwy 39 would soon be operational and plans were in place to pave a section of Hwy 3 from Dexter Street to the Dollar General in Blackville. Vice Chairman Kinlaw said a paving project was also underway in the Allendale and Kline area.

**Health Care**

Councilman Creech said the Barnwell Urgent Care had reopened and would be operating 5 days a week from 9 am to 4 pm. Extensive progress was being made on construction of the Regional Medical Center ER.

**Old Business****3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Leasing Office Space at the Health Department**

Councilman Creech moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**New Business****1st Reading of an Ordinance Approving An Agreement In Settlement Of City Of Barnwell, Town of Williston and Town of Blackville v. County of Barnwell and Barnwell County Economic Development Corporation n, Civil Action No. 2017-CP-06-00113, And Implementing The Terms Thereof**

Chairman Jowers said Attorney Matthews would be discussing the agreement with Council during Executive Session and had requested the 1<sup>st</sup> reading be held after Executive Session. Councilman Houston moved to have the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of this Ordinance after the Executive Session. The motion was seconded and it passed.

**Encroachment Permit Request to Run Fiber Optic Cable on County Property South of Pechman Street**

Councilman Houston moved to approve this permit request. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution of Support for Denmark Tech**

Councilman Kenner moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested. The motion failed.

Councilman Buckmon-Yes      Councilman Harper-No      Councilman Kenner-Yes

**Resolution Designating April as Fair Housing Month**

Councilman Kenner moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution from First Citizens Authorizing the Administrator as an Authorized Signer**

Councilman Houston move to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech moved to enter into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Kinlaw seconded the motion and it passed.

**Executive Session**

No action was taken in Executive Session.

**Open Session**

Councilman Creech moved that legal counsel resolve the matter related to the personnel issue. Council Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.


Councilman Creech moved that Council withdraw the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the EDC Ordinance from further consideration. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

  
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Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

  
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Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman