

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
June 19, 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 June 19, 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., Administrator Tim Bennett, County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel was also in attendance. Councilman David Kenner was unable to attend.

Councilman Buckmon said he would like to amend the agenda to include putting the County's legal services out for bid and a Resolution for a Three Rivers Board appointment. Councilman Houston asked if the Resolution was on hand and Councilman Buckmon said it was not. Councilman Houston said all resolutions and ordinances must be on hand before Council could vote on them. Councilman Buckmon withdrew his request regarding the Resolution. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Buckmon moved to amend the agenda to include putting the County's legal services out for bid. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed.

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

A motion was made to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed.

A public hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance related to the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi-County Industrial/Business Park. Sandy Steele with the Southern Carolina Regional Alliance said the Jasper Ocean Terminal would be a benefit to the State. As the host County, Jasper would receive 93% of the revenues and Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton and Hampton Counties would each receive 1% of the revenues.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation and the pledge of allegiance were given and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the May 8, 2018 and May 31, 2018 Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Special Presentations

Councilman Buckmon presented a Resolution of Appreciation in Memory of Hersey Graham to Mr. Graham's family and expressed appreciation from Council for Mr. Graham's years of service and dedication. Councilman Creech read a Resolution of Recognition in honor of Cheryl Long which would later be presented at her retirement celebration.

Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Steven Brown, president and founder of Dreams, Imagination, and Gift Development (DIG) Program, said DIG's goal was to interest children and youth in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. He said the DIG STEM Festival continued to grow and he asked for Council's continued financial support in the FY 18-19 budget. Vicky Benjamin, Steve Burnette, and Shelby Williams each spoke in support of DIG and asked for Council's continued financial support. Troy Thames with Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands said the Boys and Girls Club would be partnering with Barnwell County in the upcoming school year providing an after school program at Barnwell Elementary and asked for Council's continued financial support in the FY 18-19 budget.

Administrators Update

Regarding Workers Compensation, Administrator Bennett said Barnwell County was currently 23rd out of 46 counties with an experience modifier rating of 1.02 and that efforts to improve the Risk Management program continued. Vice Chairman Kinlaw said a reduction in accidents would save the County money. Administrator Bennett reviewed with Council the number of Barnwell County residents employed at SRS. Administrator Bennett said he had spoken with Councilman Buckmon regarding having a Services Committee meeting to address initiatives in Solid Waste and issues involving the cemetery. Administrator Bennett said DHEC had requested, effective immediately, he sign a document to allow HUD funds to channel through DHEC to support housing opportunities for persons with aids. This program was part of HopeHealth Inc. which Council had approved at its March Council meeting. Administrator Bennett said the County had received the 2nd half of the DOE PILT.

Financial Update

Administrator Bennett said the County was 9 months into the year with 65 % revenues and 71% expenditures.

Committee Reports**Boards and Commissions**

Following the approval of the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Modify and Amend the Barnwell County Recreation Commission Ordinance 2002-169, appointments were made to the Recreation Board.

Government, Housing, Judicial, Services and Personnel - No reports were given.

Science/Tech. & Regulatory Matters

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said in an effort to become more involved with SRS activities, as Council had previously discussed, he had attended an Up and Atom - Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness Breakfast at SRS.

Transportation

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said Mayor Moore of Snelling had contacted him regarding having the Transportation Committee put a road on their list and Chairman Walker was completing the application.

Safety

Councilman Harper said Medshore had responded to 394 calls and 161 of those had been transported to Aiken.

Finance

Councilman Houston said the FY 18-19 budget was balanced without using the Evergreen Account. Vice Chairman Kinlaw said since 2008, the State had shorted the local government fund \$3,000,000 yet continued to impose additional statutes on local governments requiring them to provide additional services to its citizens.

Health Care

Councilman Creech said the Barnwell Urgent Care had been closed two months and had held several interviews to hire a nurse practitioner. Councilman Creech said Roger Phillips would begin repaying the \$125,000 loan at \$2,000 a month in June. Councilman Houston asked how the repayment terms had been changed, as Mr. Phillips had already signed an agreement to pay \$25,000 a year. Administrator Bennett said the Finance Department had sent Mr. Phillips an invoice for \$25,000 and he had asked the Finance Department to send Mr. Phillips another invoice in 30 days. Administrator Bennett had also asked the County Attorney to draw up a new agreement reflecting the new terms in an effort to reach out to Mr. Phillips.

EDC

Councilman Creech said he was told by the new director of the EDC Board that the County needed to find another location for the Arena because the Barnwell City Council did not want it at the proposed Airport site and that in regard to the County's 3rd project on the CPST list to run water and sewer to the SCAT Park, the City of Barnwell would not connect to it. Councilman Houston said both he and Councilman Buckmon had confirmed in previous Council meetings that the County would not be a part of running the Arena and that tax payer money would not be used and asked Councilman Creech if he had advised anyone that the County would take over the Arena once it was built. Councilman Creech said the Arena would benefit the County as a multi-purpose facility and the County might need to hire one or two employees to book events once it was built, but there were no plans to burden the County with tax money to build the facility. Councilman Houston said it had been understood that tax dollars would not be spent to build the facility or to operate it and that he and Councilman Kenner had previously stated the Arena should be a private entity. Councilman Houston said the Arena could be located in the Williston or Blackville Industrial Park and was not limited to the City of Barnwell. Vice Chairman Kinlaw said on a positive note, according to the SC Department of Workforce, the unemployment level as at 4%, the lowest it had been since the year 2000.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance related to the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi-County Industrial/Business Park
Councilman Creech moved to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Modify and Amend the Barnwell Recreation Commission Ord. 2002-169

Councilman Buckmon moved to approve the 3rd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Buckmon moved to appoint Nicole Roberts and Alex Nobles to the two newly added At Large Seats on the Recreation Board. Councilman Harper seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said he did not believe At Large Seats on the Recreation Board were necessary because the original Ordinance, 2002-169, did not call for At Large Seats on the Board. There was a call for the vote. The motion passed with Councilman Houston dissenting.

New Business

Legal Services out to Bid

Councilman Buckmon moved for the County's legal services to be put out for bid. Councilman Harper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed.

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

Councilman Creech moved that the FY '18-'19 Budget include funding for Administrator Bennett to attend the annual SCAC Conference. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

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

Executive Session

Personnel Matter Regarding Potential Disciplinary Action against a County Employee

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Creech moved that Council accept the Administrator's request that a County Employee be put on administrative leave with pay. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman