

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
November 14, 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 for their regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 14, 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 Danny Black, Tommy Boyleston, Dr. Bill Molnar and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the October 10th and November 1st 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.

SCA Update

Danny Black said that in 2017 there had been \$128,000,000 in investments and 411 jobs created across the region. On project activity, there had been 80 new projects with 60 property visits and 61 projects were still active and looking around the 6 County region. In Barnwell County, there were 23 active projects considering Barnwell, 33 site submissions were given to project opportunities, and 8 site visits.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said the successful bidder had begun removing tires from 2 unauthorized disposal sites. On November 15th, Emergency Management would be participating in a statewide emergency drill at the Airport. On November 17th and 18th the Fire Departments would be pump testing. Paving on Battle Creek was complete.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report and said the County had received a \$330,000 check which was for 3 months of CPST revenues. The projects were progressing well.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Harper moved to appoint Scott Church to the Airport Commission for District 3. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech moved to appoint Sam McKay to the Airport Commission At large seat. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston appointed Kimberly Love to the Fire Commission for District 1, #12.

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

Transportation

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said the Transportation Committee met on November 13th and would meet again regarding additional funding requests for Highways 78 and 3. Dr. Bill Molnar said the LSCOG had met with the SCDOT to request continued support of long term Guideshare Funding and that the LSCOG Transportation Technical Advisory Committee would meet on January 18th to determine if additional funding was available. Councilman Houston asked if the LSCOG would be proposing a resolution which opposed the regionalization of Guideshare Funding. Dr. Molnar confirmed, saying the drafting of such a resolution was possible as the SCDOT had discussed three options for Guideshare Funding; making no changes, regionalizing, or removing local control.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said he, Administrator Williams and Councilman Harper had researched sub contracting out landfill operations and determined it would not be beneficial.

Health Care

Councilman Creech said the Barnwell Urgent Care facility was doing well and was open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 7 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 9 pm. They had been qualified for Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicaid, Medicare and Workman's Comp. Councilman Houston asked when the facility would be open 24/7 per the intent of Heritage Health Care's request for \$125,000. Councilman Creech said the facility had opened on Saturdays for a month, but due to lack of activity, had discontinued. They would continue extending their hours as the need increased. Councilman Creech said if no pharmacy was available within 30 miles, urgent care facilities were prohibited from being open and that since the opening of the Barnwell Urgent Care facility, two lives had been saved. Councilman Kenner asked if the facility had acquired x-ray equipment and Councilman Creech responded that they had not yet. Regarding the new ER facility to be built on Hwy 70, Councilman Creech said progress was being made preparing the property.

New Business**Letter of Support for SRP Credit Union ATM in Blackville**

Councilman Kenner moved for Council's support for SRP Credit Union to place an ATM in Blackville. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

Potential contract negotiations and legal advice related to the hospital bankruptcy.

Personnel Matter related to Administrator's Office, Auditor's Office, Building and Grounds, Business Office, Coroner's Office, Emergency Management, Probate Court, Public Works, Treasurer's Office; The motion was seconded and it passed.

Precontractual matters related to Project Bradley

Precontractual matters related to the Solar projects.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Creech moved to approve the sale of property related to Project Bradley. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to allow Administrator Williams to contact Attorney McCarthy regarding the cost to upgrade the hospital records and report back to Council. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

1st Readings of Ordinances to Amend the FILOTS for Blackville Solar, Blackville Solar II, Crossroads Solar, Edison Solar and Richardson Solar

These ordinances were read in name only.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman