

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
January 9, 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 January 9, 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 Pickens Williams Jr., and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Tommy Boyleston and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. County Attorney Mosteller was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Creech moved to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session before the Committee reports to discuss matters related to Project Horse and to add a Resolution related to Orchids Paper to the agenda. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the December 8th and December 12th Council meeting minutes. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said the punch list items on the new Detention Center was being worked on and was near completion. The Building and Grounds Department had repaired gas lines behind the Detention Center which were cut during its construction. The Business Office had listed County vehicles no longer in use on the Gov. Deals website. The Public Works Department was awaiting quotes for paving on the Hwy 64 convenience station, the Patterson Mill substation and the Hwy 300 Substation.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Councilman Houston moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters related to Project Horse. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Creech moved to add the Recreation Committee back on the Boards and Commissions' list effective in February. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Creech moved to approve the Resolution Clarifying the FILOT Agreement Between Barnwell County and Orchids Paper. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Chairman Jowers nominated James M. Williams (residing in District 7) to the Museum Board for District 4.

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

Transportation

Vice Chairman Kinlaw said the SCDOT had paved Clinton Street. Councilman Houston reminded everyone that the SCDOT would be meeting on February 8th, from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Barnwell First Baptist church to receive input regarding intersection improvements to US 278 at SC300 and SC3.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said due to the County's recycling program, School District 45 had qualified for a grant.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance

Councilman Houston moved to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance to Leasing Office Space at the Health Department

This Ordinance was read in name only.

Consideration of Temporary Hiring Freeze Waiver for Williston Magistrate's Office

Councilman Creech moved to approve the waiver of the temporary hiring freeze for the Williston Magistrate's Office. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston recommended and Council concurred that the temporary hiring freeze was no longer needed and should be rescinded. As this would be an amendment to the personnel manual, it would be put on the agenda to be considered at the February Council meeting.

Consideration of Approval of EDC Timber Sale

Councilman Creech moved to approve the EDC sale of timber in the Blackville Industrial Park to the highest bidder and to have the proceeds set aside for NK Newlook. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said the purpose of selling the timber had been because the property was being sold and he asked if it would be better to delay selling the timber to possibly bring in higher bids once it grew larger. Councilman Houston added that he did not think County Council could designate the proceeds as the timber was on property belonging to the EDC and therefore belonged to the EDC. Council discussed whether delaying the sale would bring in higher bids. Councilman moved to allow EDC Director Tommy Boyleston to give his input. Vice Chairman Kinlaw seconded the motion and it passed. Mr. Boyleston said the bids that had been received were very good and that cancelling the process might deter future bidders. For those reasons and due to the expense of advertising, he felt it best to proceed with the sale. Regarding the designation of funds, he said although NK Newlook was a priority, nothing could be done with it at present because of a lien the IRS had against it. Councilman Creech withdrew his motion for the designation of the proceeds and moved for the sale of the timber. Councilman Kenner 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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman

