

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 2, 2010**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media was notified and notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Barnwell County Council met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6:00PM. The meeting was scheduled to be held in the Blackville Town Hall. The Mayor of Blackville changed the meeting place to the Community Center located next door to the Town Hall and posted a notice on the front door of the Town Hall. Neither County Council, the County Administrator, nor the County Attorney were informed of the change in location. Those in attendance were Chairman Thomas L. Williams, Vice Chairman Travis Black, Councilman Freddie Houston, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, County Administrator Pickens Williams, Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Debra Fickling.

**Call to order, Invocation, and Quorum**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams, the invocation was given by Councilman Houston, and a quorum was declared.

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Houston made a motion to move Executive Session after Public Comment to allow representatives from Stroudwater to make their presentation to Council earlier in the meeting than previously planned due to Joe Lupica needing to return home as

soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and the agenda was approved with the change.

### **Approval of Minutes (February 2, 2010)**

Councilman Sloan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting as presented. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Welcome**

Chairman Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that Council meetings rotate each year with two in Blackville and two in Williston.

### **Public Comment**

Rev. Floyd Hughes and Beverly Washington approached the podium. Rev. Hughes made comments regarding Ms. Washington working for the county and the elimination of her position and the recommendation from the Grievance Committee.

Stacy A. Hagood, a Blackville citizen, spoke regarding the termination of Beverly Washington and the recommendation from the Grievance Committee.

Ted Bellinger, President of African-American Concerned Citizens spoke regarding the termination of Beverly Washington.

Councilman Sloan made a motion to enter into executive session and Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. Councilman Kenner requested that personnel matters also be heard during executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session**

County Council entered back into open session from executive session, where no action was taken.

**Open Session**

Councilman Black made a motion to sign a letter of intent with Pruitt regarding the Barnwell County Nursing Home and to have a survey of the property done. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Kenner made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee concerning Beverly Washington’s termination. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

District 1 – Councilman Houston	Yes
District 2 – Councilman Kenner	Yes
District 3 – Councilman Sloan	No
District 4 – Councilman Jowers	No
District 5 – Councilman Smith	Abstained due to being called by Ms. Washington who tried to influence his vote

District 7 – Councilman Black	No
District 6 – Chairman Williams	Yes

Chairman Williams asked for clarification from the County Attorney. Mr. Mosteller stated he would research the issue and inform Council at a later date.

### **Updates**

Clerk of Court McElveen updated Council on court activities and upcoming CMS training.

Sheriff Carroll presented a packet to Council and reported that a Judicial meeting was scheduled for March 5th.

Coroner Ward reported that duties in the Coroner's office had increased from the previous year and there had also been an increase in the need for autopsies. He also reported that digital photography was in place in his office and requested a two-body morgue.

Administrator Williams reported that an energy grant had been awarded to the County in the amount of \$85,000. He thanked Debbie Fickling, Jesse Ortiz and others that helped with the application.

The County Engineer's office had repaired numerous roads in the county due to damage from above average rainfall.

Patricia McClure, Site Attendant at the Rosemary Convenience site, was named Barnwell County Site Attendant of the Year and received recognition at a DHEC meeting in Columbia earlier in the day.

## **Committee Reports**

### Boards and Commissions

Chairman Williams had nominated Dwayne Eubanks, a resident of District 5, to serve on the EDC Board as the District 6 appointee, at the February Council meeting.

Councilman Jowers made a motion to accept the nomination, Councilman Black seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

District 1 – Councilman Houston reappointed Catherine Mack to the Hospital Board and all other District 1 committee members are to be reappointed.

District 2 – Councilman Kenner reappointed Theresa Hughes to continue to serve on the Career Center Board, Doris Beard to continue to serve on the Nursing Home Board, and Ernest Sanders to continue to serve on the Transportation Committee.

District 3 – Councilman Sloan reappointed Nina Grady to the Planning Commission.

District 4 – Councilman Jowers reappointed all District 4 appointees.

District 7 – Councilman Black appointed Jeff Sandifer to replace William Sandifer as the District 7 appointee on the EDC Board, Jerry Creech to serve as the District 7 appointee on the Transportation Committee, and all other appointees in District 7 to continue to serve.

#### Economic Development Board

Councilman Smith reported that a group was looking at the Hanesbrand facility and another company was looking at leasing the building across from the Law Enforcement Center.

#### Finance

Councilman Houston reported that the Finance Committee had met. Clerk of Court McElveen was requesting that a portion of the \$25,000 to be turned over to the general fund from IV-D funds be set aside for on-line access to deeds.

#### Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial statement that was in Council's packet.

#### Government Committee

Chairman Williams reported that the Committee met during February and agreed to pay a previously unresolved debt to a local business.

### Health Care Committee

Councilman Black reported that the Nursing Home and Hospital had met during February.

### Housing Committee

No report.

### Judicial Committee

Councilman Sloan reported that the Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday March 5th. He moved for approval of a resolution that would provide for the financing of one (1) Sheriff's vehicle subject to the Judicial Committee's approval after discussing the proposal with Sheriff Carroll. Funding for the payments will be made from Department Social Services' funds received by the Sheriff's Department. The Committee will report any suggested changes made to this provision at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Councilman Jowers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Williams reported on the status of the Detention Center addition and the related Storm Water Drainage study. He reported that a portion of the design work is necessary prior to the Storm Water Drainage study. Councilman Sloan requested a meeting with all parties involved before moving forward.

### Personnel Committee

Councilman Kenner made a motion to waive the 60-day hiring freeze for the Auditor's Office and Councilman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

District 1 – Councilman Houston	Yes
District 2 – Councilman Kenner	Yes
District 3 – Councilman Sloan	Yes
District 4 – Councilman Jowers	Yes
District 5 – Councilman Smith	Yes
District 6 – Chairman Williams	No
District 7 – Councilman Black	No

The motion passed.

Councilman Kenner made a motion to accept the job description of the Fire Coordinator that includes “assist the Building Inspector” and “serves as back up to the Emergency Management Director”. There will be no increase in pay to the Fire Coordinator for these responsibilities. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Services Committee

Councilman Smith reported that he had met with Solid Waste Director Billy McAlister regarding a contract for the crushing of concrete at the landfill. Pickens was asked to try to negotiate with the company to get the work done.

### Safety Committee

Councilman Jowers and Councilman Houston met with the Williston Rescue Squad.

### Transportation Committee

Councilman Black reported that the Committee had met with Councilman Houston, Administrator Williams and County Attorney J.D. Mosteller in attendance. Zel Engineering has requested that they be released from the contract for 2010 Road Projects. Councilman Black made a motion to release Zel Engineering due to being unable to perform, and that the County enter into a contract with J.J. & G. to perform the balance of the work, since J.J. & G. was the next lowest bidder. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### Recommendation Concerning Kimberwick Subdivision

County Attorney J.D. Mosteller reported that a problem with paving portions of the Kimberwick subdivision exists due to the plat for the subdivision not being filed until after the passage of the Zoning Ordinance. Chairman Williams sent the request back to the Planning Commission to look at the request for paving the subdivision. He stated that only a portion of the subdivision could be grandfathered due to the entire subdivision plat not being recorded with all lots being shown.

### **New Business**

#### Consideration of Resolution Concerning the Savannah River Site

Chairman Williams made a motion to approve the resolution concerning the storage of High Level Spent Fuel at the Savannah River Site.

Discussion of Date for Council Retreat

Councilman Williams stated that a retreat will be held on March 19, 2010 at the EDC office.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Sloan made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Joe Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Williams, Chairman  
Barnwell County Council

TLW:df