BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
March 10, 2015
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 on March 10, 2015 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman David Kenner, Vice Chairman Keith Sloan, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman Lowell Jowers, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Andre Anderson with LSCOG, Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

Call to Order, Invocation, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Agenda, Minutes, Welcome & Public Comments
The meeting was called to order, the invocation given and a quorum declared. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved to approve the minutes from the February 10th and February 20th Council meetings. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Vice-Chairman Sloan abstained from voting on the February 10th minutes as he was absent from that meeting. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone and asked for public comments. There were none.

Resolution of Recognition
Chairman Kenner presented Emergency Management Director, Roger Riley with a Resolution of Recognition for his being named the Emergency Management Director of the Year by the SC Emergency Managers Association and for his dedicated service to Barnwell County.

Updates
LSCOG
Andre Anderson spoke to Council regarding the Workforce Designation Ordinance and the increased efforts to promote awareness of workforce investment activities being provided.

Clerk of Court
Rhonda McElveen distributed a report and gave an update on the sessions of Court.

County Administrator
Administrator Williams said construction of the Patterson Mill Fire Station was near completion. The County pumpers and tankers had received their annual servicing. Fire Coordinator Timbo Williams attended a class hosted by Med Shore and the Joseph M. Burn Still Center. Grading on Rainbow Drive had begun. SCE&G was running underground electrical service on Kimberwick. Preliminary drawings on Battlecreek were being reviewed. Roger Riley said through the labor of Career Center students and a grant, a trailer had been constructed that could be used in emergency situations to assist Emergency Management, Fire Departments, Law Enforcement and the citizens. He said the trailer would be unveiled on March 17th and he would be having a cookout and giving plaques to each of the students for their hard work. He encouraged Council's attendance.

Committee Reports
Boards & Commissions
Councilman Buckmon said John McHenry resigned from the Animal Shelter Board and appointed Denise Love to fill the remainder of his term. Councilman Houston moved that Ms. Williams continue to serve on the Career Center Board. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Creech-No	Councilman Jowers-No	Councilman Smith-No
Councilman Buckmon-No	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion did not carry.

Councilman Smith said if the Legislature approved putting the Career Center Board under the direction of the School Districts, the at large seat would be unnecessary and he moved to eliminate the seat. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Creech said he wanted the Legislature's decision before voting to eliminate the at large seat. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes	Councilman Creech-No	Councilman Jowers-No	Councilman Smith-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Sloan-Yes	

The motion passed.

Councilman Creech nominated Russell Reed, residing in District 2, to serve on the Museum Board for District 7. Councilman Houston re-appointed Ronnie Tobin to the Equalization Board of Appeals, Ronald Brown to the Housing Committee, Sylvia Quattlebaum to the Library Board, and Anthony Green to the Planning Commission. Councilman Buckmon said as Chair of the Services Committee, he felt it was more appropriate for him to be on the Solid Waste Authority Board and moved that he be appointed, replacing Councilman Sloan. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Discussion was held as to whether the seat had a term ending date. Attorney Mosteller said he believed that appointees served until voted off. Vice Chairman Sloan said the Solid Waste Authority had very little impact on the County Landfill and the scope of operations, type of waste handled, and contracts were different. He encouraged Council members to contact Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority. Chairman Kenner suggested tabling the matter until the April 14th Council meeting as it was not on the agenda. Councilman Smith moved to table the matter until the next Council meeting. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Economic Development
Councilman Creech said the EDC had elected officers and was reviewing job applications to select an EDC Director. Project Flower was progressing and that he had been in contact with the EPA and DHEC concerning the possibility of cleaning up the old Shuron building.

Finance
Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee had met and discussed re-instating employee's rate of sick leave accrual to the rate it was before it was decreased in 2009 and the funding of a new position for a litter control officer. Coming as a recommendation from the Committee, Councilman Houston moved that funding for a litter control officer be pursued. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Council discussed the need for a certified officer so that violations could be prosecuted. Vice Chairman Sloan suggested there be a stipulation that the officer would work only in the capacity of litter control. Councilman Creech said Sheriff Carroll had assured him litter control would be the officer's only duty. The motion passed.

Financial Update
Administrator Williams reviewed December's financial report.

Government, Healthcare, Housing, Personnel, Science Technology & Regulatory Matters, and SCRDA
There were no reports for the above Committees.

Judicial
Councilman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee had met and the move of the various Departments would begin mid April. He asked Administrator Williams to coordinate with Building and Grounds regarding necessary renovations to the the building that the DJJ would be moving into and that he have the documents located in the former EDC building moved to a secure location so that Voter Registration could begin their move. Chairman Kenner asked Councilman Buckmon if all of the Departments had been contacted and were agreeable with the move. Councilman Buckmon confirmed that everyone had been contacted and were in agreement.

Safety
Councilman Creech said they had met with 911, the Sheriff's Office, the Hospital, Medshore, and the Fire Department to assure that ambulances were where they were supposed to be. They would meet again on February 27th at 10 am.

Services
Councilman Buckmon said he had spoken with Billy McAlister at the Landfill, District 19 representatives, the City of Barnwell's Administrator and planned to speak with District 29 representatives. Both Billy McAlister and the LSCOG said there were grants available for recyclable containers which the City, County, and the School Districts could apply for.

Transportation
Councilman Smith said the release was given to proceed with the road project for Harvest, Peachtree, and Calico and that the contract was $800,000. He had also spoken to the Transportation Committee regarding the possibility of paving a portion of a road connecting Joey Zorn Blvd to Harris Street. Councilman Creech asked for Council's approval to contact the FAA regarding the possibility of reopening a connection between Joey Zorn Blvd and Virginia Avenue. Council discussed the reasons the road had been closed and concurred that Councilman Creech could contact the FAA regarding the possibility of re-opening the road, but also needed to contact the City of Barnwell and the citizens in the area for their input.

Old Business

2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Workforce Area Designation

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

New Business

1st Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Ban of Animals within County Buildings.

This Ordinance was read in name only. Council discussed various exceptions that may need to be included in the Ordinance and asked Attorney Mosteller to revise the Ordinance with some of those exclusions to the ban.

Revised Building Inspection Fees

Administrator Williams said that he and Building Inspector, Mike Grubbs believe citizens were not obtaining building permits due the permit fee starting at $154 and were suggesting the building inspection fees be revised as follows:
$0 - $5,000: $65 fee / $5,001 - $10,000: $75 fee / $10,001 - $15,000: $115 fee / $15,001 - $20,000: $154
Councilman Houston moved to approve the fee revision. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

DOE Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement – 2014 Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Councilman Jowers moved to approve this Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Pax Ice Storm Expenses

Coming as a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Councilman Houston moved that $19,380.38 of the $25,840.50 spent by Abbeville, Anderson, and Jasper Counties to assist Barnwell after the Pax Ice storm be reimbursed to those Counties, which was the total amount that FEMA reimbursed Barnwell County for those counties' expenditures. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed. Vice Chairman Sloan asked that the Finance Committee check to see if any of the actual expenses of the local volunteer firefighter and emergency personnel were reimbursed by FEMA and if so, to consider reimbursing those volunteers also.

Councilman Jowers moved to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Open Session

Councilman Houston moved to approve having Parker Poe work with Project Lace and the County regarding the Project. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council

David Kenner, Council Chairman