

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
December 13, 2016 - 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 December 13, 2016 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 Sr., Councilman Joe Smith, 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 JD Mosteller was unable to attend.

Public hearings were held to receive comments prior to the 3rd reading of an ordinance to amend the FY '16-'17 Budget and an ordinance to amend the zoning maps. There were no public comments. Vice Chairman Sloan said because the "Overtime Exemption Rule" was being challenged in the Courts, the budget would not need to be amended. He proposed tabling the 3rd reading of that ordinance.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation given, and a quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. A motion was made to approve the November 15th Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Kenner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none. Chairman Kenner presented Resolutions of Recognition to outgoing Vice Chairman Sloan and Councilman Smith.

Updates

Medshore

Greg Shore was not present to give an update. Councilman Creech said Medshore was merging with another company to improve its financial status and that their services to the County would remain the same.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said the replacement jail building was nearing completion. The Building and Grounds Department was painting the tables and bunk beds being used in the old jail because they would be used in the replacement jail building once it was completed. Emergency Management purchased a generator for \$60,000 using a hazard mitigation grant. The Fire Coordinator and 7 firefighters responded to a fire at the Georgia Pacific Plant in Fairfax.

Committee Reports

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Boards and Commissions

Nominate	Animal Shelter, District 1 (Resides in District 4)	Ginger Massey	
Nominate	Animal Shelter, District 2 (Resides in District 4)	Paige Port	
Nominate	Animal Shelter, District 7 (Resides in District 4)	Melissa Bonnette	
Re-appoint	Axis I, District 29 - Seat 5	Ronald Brown	Term Expires: 2019
Re-appoint	Grievance Committee, District 45	John Boney	Term Expires: 2019
Re-appoint	Grievance Committee, District 19	Ethel Washington	Term Expires: 2019

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

Judicial

Councilman Buckmon said the final inspection of the new Detention Center would be on December 19th.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said because the front loading garbage truck was 13 years old and continually needing repairs, garbage and recyclables were not being picked up regularly which was causing complaints and affecting recycling efforts. He said a new truck would take 4 to 6 months to receive and he didn't think the existing one would last. Administrator Williams said the plans on funding a replacement truck, which he estimated to cost \$240,000, was to pay the last two payments remaining on a vehicle being used by the Solid Waste Department out of the '16-'17 FY Budget and to purchase the new truck out during FY 17-'18'. Council discussed the possibility of leasing a truck in the interim.

Finance

Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee had met with John Boney and PF Beck regarding the \$140,000 the Airport owed the County. Coming as a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Councilman Houston moved that the Airport pay the County back \$14,000 per year for 10 years. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Jowers asked what the course of action would be if the Airport could not generate enough money to pay their employees or pay back the \$14,000. Councilman Houston said as with other County Agencies, the Finance Committee would meet, review the budget and propose a solution. If the Airport could not pay, not if they chose not to pay, then it would be the County's responsibility to come find a solution. Vice Chairman Sloan said as discussed during the Finance Committee meeting and in compliance with the 1997 Ordinance the Airport would submit an annual budget to the County and if the Airport realized due a decrease in fuel sales or hangar rent they would not be able to pay the salaries or the \$14,000, they could come to Council in advance and it would be the duty of Council to decide what to do. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-No

Councilman Creech-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

Coming as a recommendation of the Finance Committee, Councilman Houston moved that the County be a sponsor for the 2017 DIG STEM Festival for \$5,000 with \$4,100 coming from the pooled interest account and \$900 coming from the grant match line item. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion. Councilman Buckmon suggested that future budgets include a separate line item for sponsorship of the DIG STEM Program. Councilman Creech said while the DIG STEM might be a good program, he had requested in July that County employees be given a 2% raise and that he did not understand why Council continued to give away money for programs every other month, but would not give its employees a raise. Councilman Buckmon concurred that employees needed a raise. Councilman Houston said if financially able, the County should give raises to all employees, not just a few. Chairman Kenner said while employees deserved a raise, the funding for it needed to be financially sustainable and that if the State voted to increase the Local Government Fund, the County may be able to afford a raise for the employees. Councilman Jowers moved to table Sponsoring the DIG STEM Program until it was known if the State would be increasing the Local Government Fund. Councilman Jowers' motion died for lack of a second. Vice Chairman Sloan said the employees were an asset to the County and they needed a raise but that the County's young people were also an asset. He said the DIG STEM Program encouraged young people to go to college and to stay in the County in that it gave local industries a chance to show them positions available for them in science and technology fields and that unlike funding for a raise for employees, the \$5,000 in funding for the DIG STEM sponsorship was already provided for in the budget. He reminded Council that the \$140,000 owed to the County by the Airport which some of the Councilmen had wanted to write off at the last two Council meetings, would have put money back into the budget which would have made a raise for the employees more possible. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes

Councilman Creech-No
Councilman Houston-Yes

Councilman Jowers-No
Councilman Sloan-Yes

Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

Administrator Williams said that all counties were now being required to have a certified building official and that it would cost the County approximately \$10,000 additionally to have another county's certified official assist the County in its inspections. The County's current Inspector was not yet certified. Councilman Houston moved that the County's current Building Inspector's salary be increased to the midpoint of a grade 27 once he completed the training and became certified. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

EDC

Councilman Smith moved to approve the Resolution to Add Property to Park III of the Amended and Related Master Agreement for the Establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park I, Park II, and Park III. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed. Vice Chairman Sloan said at the last EDC Committee meeting, Tommy Rivers resigned. Chairman Kenner asked the Clerk to Council to send an appreciation letter. Councilman Houston said at the SCA Workshop he and Councilman Jowers had attended, there was commitment on the SCA Board to find ways to attract industry to Barnwell County and that the Board was looking into if it would be possible to do in Barnwell County what was being done in Sumter which was that students graduating from high school received two years of technical training in the County at no cost to the student. This was helping to attract industry making new jobs available.

Old Business3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Maps

Councilman Houston moved to approve this ordinance. Vice Chairman Sloan seconded the motion and it passed.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the '16-'17 Budget

The 3rd Reading of this Ordinance was tabled.

New Business

Amount Owed to the County by the Airport

This agenda item was handled during the Finance Update.

Sponsorship of 2017 Stem Festival

This agenda item was approved during the Finance Update.

Resolution to Add Property to Park III of Amended and Related Master Agreement for the Establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park I, Park II, and Park III

This agenda item was approved during the EDC update.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a pre-contractual matter related to Project Beacon. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Closing Comments

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



David Kenner, Council Chairman