

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
September 10, 2019
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 its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on September 10, 2019 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Vice Chairman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Daniel Alexander, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman David Kenner, Administrator Tim Bennett and County Attorney JD Mosteller.

Also in attendance were Medshore Operations Chief Phil Clarke, Southern Carolina Alliance Director of Development John Fleming, District 45 Superintendent Crissie Stapleton, Business Manager Debbie Fickling, Emergency Management Director Roger Riley, and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given and a quorum was declared.

Administrator Bennett requested the agenda be amended to include Discussion and Decision Related to the Department of Commerce Targeted Rural Initiative to the Public Session portion of the agenda and to include Discussion of Matters Related to Economic Development during the Executive Session portion of the agenda. Councilman Alexander moved for approval to amend the agenda to include these two items to be discussed during the meeting. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Chairman Kinlaw presented the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Competition Award in recognition of County Achievement to Emergency Management Director Roger Riley. Director Riley and Superintendent Stapleton briefed Council on the \$4.8 million FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant that was awarded to the Barnwell School District 45 for the construction of a dual purpose gymnasium and safe room capable of withstanding hurricane conditions.

Councilman Houston moved for approval of the August 20, 2019 minutes. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Kinlaw welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none.

UPDATES

Medshore

Operations Chief Clarke said Medshore had received 470 dispatched calls in August. This had resulted in 335 transports with an average response time of 11 minutes, 17 seconds. Administrator Bennett said he would be requesting data regarding the number of patient walk-ins from Bamberg/Barnwell ER Facility Management and he requested that Operations Chief Clarke begin providing Council with a line chart reflecting the transports numbers, to aid in a month to month data comparison.

Southern Carolina Alliance

Southern Carolina Alliance Director of Development John Fleming said the SCA began 2019 with 44 projects and had since added 54 new projects. Of that total, 46 projects had been closed or reclassified, 7 projects had been announced, 184 submittals of 61 properties to 48 projects had been received, and there had been 52 site visits to 24 properties by 23 projects.

Administrator

Administrator Bennett said Solid Waste Director Mark Blackwood, following his successful course work completion, had become certified as a landfill operator. Landfill employee Nathan Kean had also completed the course and Landfill employee Frank Williams would be attending the course.

Financial Report

Administrator Bennett reviewed the departmental August expenditure actuals provided to Council in their packet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boards and Commissions

Chairman Kinlaw stressed the need for Council to make appointments to the vacant seats on the Boards and Commissions. Chairman Kinlaw discussed ways the County could promote public awareness and an interest in serving.

Government, Science/Technology & Regulatory Matters, Housing, Finance, Personnel, Safety, Economic Development, and Judicial - No reports.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said Sunrise Lane was 75% complete, Jewel Lane/White Oak Street/Roy Street was 45% complete, and Sanders Lane/White Oak Road would be the next road project.

Health Care

Councilman Creech said Medshore's Ambulance Operations Manager Josh Shore had requested that he, Medshore's owner, Greg Shore and its Operations Chief Phil Clarke, meet with Council at a Special Called Council Meeting to discuss the pros and cons of combining EMS services with Bamberg County.

Services

Vice Chairman Buckmon said there would be a recycling exhibit in the Barnwell County Library in October. There was not a quorum at the Recycling Committee meeting, but the Committee did discuss ideas to increase recycling participation.

Councilman Houston moved for approval to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussions Related to: Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding a Feasibility Study for the Proposed Multi-Purpose Arena, Option-to-Purchase Property, Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding the Purchase of the Southern Carolina Alliance Building, Legal Advice Regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals, Legal Advice Regarding Heritage Healthcare, Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding the County Attorney, Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding Emergency Medical Services, and Personnel Matters. No action taken in Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

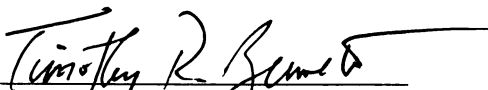
Chairman Kinlaw declared that Council was out of Executive Session where no action was taken.

Administrator Bennett said he had received a Participation Letter from the Department of Commerce requesting Barnwell County's participation in the Targeted Rural Initiative. This Governor/Commerce initiative would involve in a team visiting Barnwell County and four other counties to interview key members of the community to determine long term changes to effect major impacts on the community. Chairman Kinlaw said the Initiative would involve \$65 million and 14 rural counties. Councilman Alexander moved for approval for Administrator Bennett to sign the Participation Letter so that the County could participate in the Initiative. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Administrator Bennett requested consideration of awarding the \$30,000 bid to CS&L to conduct Task 1 of the Feasibility Study. This would determine if there would be a demand and need for a multi-purpose arena in Barnwell County. Vice Chairman Buckmon moved for approval of the bid to CS&L. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Timothy R. Bennett, Administrator



Ben Kinlaw, Council Chairman