

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**June 11, 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 June 11, 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, County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., left the meeting at 7:30 pm for a previously-scheduled commitment. This occurred prior to the Committee Reports.

Also in attendance were President and CEO Danny Black with the Southern Carolina Alliance, Executive Director Tommy Boyleston with the Economic Development Corporation, Executive Director Lisa Firmender with Generations Unlimited, Executive Director Dr. Bill Molnar with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, County Business Manager Debbie Fickling, Administrator John Zawacki with the City of Barnwell, and Jonathan Vickory with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Houston moved for approval of the agenda. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion. Administrator Bennett requested the agenda be amended by omitting the update for USC Salk as Dean Nesmith was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Councilman Houston moved to amend the agenda as requested by Administrator Bennett. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Alexander moved to enter in to Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice where legal advice relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Chairman Kinlaw declared Council was out of Executive Session where no action was taken. Councilman Houston moved that Council authorize the Council Chair to send a letter to the City of Barnwell in support of future downtown development. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech moved that Council authorize an additional \$5,000 to settle a County lawsuit. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved for approval of the May 14<sup>th</sup> and the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting 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**

##### **Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA)**

Danny Black said the SCA began 2019 with 44 projects. From January to May of 2019, 33 new projects and leads were picked up, 27 projects were closed, 5 projects were announced, 98 submittals of 44 properties to 28 projects were received, and there were 28 site visits to 12 properties by 14 projects.

##### **LSCOG**

Dr. Bill Molnar reviewed the 2018-2019 LSCOG's County report and briefed Council on the Community Development Block Grant, Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium, Area Agency on Aging, Tourism-Thoroughbred Country Region, Workforce Development Programs, and other programs.

##### **Generations Unlimited**

Lisa Firmender said in FY 17-18, Generations Unlimited had provided 70,162 passenger trips through its Public Transportation Program and had delivered 30,687 meals through its meal delivery program. Ms. Firmender said the meal delivery program relied on community volunteers and she thanked Chairman Kinlaw and Administrator Bennett for volunteering to deliver meals. Additionally, Ms. Firmender said Generations Unlimited operated 2 senior centers which served an average of 25 seniors a day.

##### **Administrator**

Administrator Bennett said he was pleased to announce that County employee Michael Grubbs was now the County's Building Official. Administrator Bennett said he, Ms. Fickling, and E911 Coordinator Allan Palmer met with a regional census official and there would be a public effort to brief municipalities on the upcoming census. To comply with State statutes, the Planning Commission would begin meeting with a LSCOG coordinator over the next 14 months to update the Comprehensive Plan.

##### **Financial Report**

Administrator Bennett reviewed the financial report and said the Finance Committee continued in its preparation of the FY 19-20 budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Boards and Commissions**

Councilman Kenner appointed Albert Pressley to the Axis 1 Board for District 19, Seat 9. Councilman Harper moved to appoint Larry Hutto (District 4 resident) to the Recreation Board for District 3. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Kinlaw nominated Mike Anderson (District 4 resident) to the Planning Commission for District 5.

**Government, Science/Technology & Regulatory Matters, Housing, Health Care, Economic Development - No reports.**

### **Finance**

Councilman Alexander said the Finance Committee met several times and there was an action item under New Business.

### **Personnel**

Councilman Alexander said the Personnel Committee met and there was an action item under New Business.

### **Transportation**

Councilman Kenner said the Transportation Committee met on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Kenner said the Public Works Department had begun putting down crush and run on roads with no right-of-way and it had been very effective in improving those roads. Councilman Kenner commended Chairman Kinlaw, Administrator Bennett and Transportation Committee Chairman Willie Walker for working with the SCDOT and the progress being made to focus on and improve County roads. Chairman Kinlaw said he had contacted the SCDOT regarding a portion of Main Street in Barnwell which had not been paved due to a lack of right-of-way dating back to 1966 and the SCDOT was researching the matter.

### **Safety**

Councilman Harper said the EMS Committee would meet June 14<sup>th</sup> and the Safety Committee would meet the first Monday in July.

### **Judicial**

Vice Chairman Buckmon said the Judicial Committee met on May 22<sup>nd</sup> with Meadors and a security consultant regarding the Courthouse addition and due to increased building costs, the Courthouse addition would not be able to be completed in its entirety. Vice Chairman Buckmon said the County needed to minimize costs and a security consultant was unnecessary and a waste of CPST funds. Administrator Bennett said it was unknown if relocation of Courthouse functions would be necessary, but that he had confirmed with Parker Poe that the CPST funding designated for the Courthouse could be used to up fit a building if relocation of Courthouse functions were necessary. Administrator Bennett said Building and Grounds Manager Ortiz and Ms. Fickling were preparing flexible plans, should relocation be necessary. Administrator Bennett said security upgrades may need to be phased in and that Clerk of Court McElveen and Sheriff Carroll believed the security upgrades, although costly, were essential.

### **Services**

Vice Chairman Buckmon said the Landfill was the cleanest it had been in a long time and he commended Solid Waste Supervisor Mark Blackwood. Vice Chairman Buckmon said the recycling containers located at the schools closed for summer break were being temporarily removed due to household trash being put in them. Councilman Creech asked if the Services Committee could meet with the Recycling Committee to develop a recycling program as a member of the Recycling Committee had told him the Committee had not met in 6 ½ years. Vice Chairman Buckmon said he would make contact with that Committee member to schedule a meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **2nd Reading of FY 19-20 Budget Ordinance**

Administrator Bennett said there was an \$800,000 shortfall between forecasted revenues and Department Head's expenditure requests. Regarding air rescue costs, Air Methods had changed its calculation method and negotiations were ongoing. An Air Methods competitor's cost was \$87,000 annually. Councilman Creech said he would not support a budget which allotted \$5,000 each for Denmark Technical College and USC Salkehatchie, as 60% of the taxes paid by

Barnwell County citizens were already earmarked for education. Councilman Kenner moved for approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the FY 19-20 Budget Ordinance. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested. The motion failed.

Chairman Kinlaw - Yes	Councilman Alexander -Yes	Councilman Buckmon - No	Councilman Creech-No
Councilman Harper - No	Councilman Houston - Absent	Councilman Kenner – Yes	


**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Adding New Holiday**

Coming as a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Councilman Alexander moved to add Veterans Day as an observed County holiday. Councilman Alexander said the Personnel Committee was recommending this additional holiday as a way for the County to show appreciation to its employees. Councilman Creech 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.



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Kim A. Futrell, Clerk to Council



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Ben Kinlaw, Council Chairman