

2020-11-578

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Jason Stapleton

WHEREAS, Mayor Jason Stapleton was – and is – admired and respected for his forward-thinking, insightful, and passionate leadership that led to many Town accomplishments during his eight years as mayor of Williston; and

WHEREAS, his leadership, along with that of his fellow mayors in the county, fellow Town Council members, and Barnwell County Council members, led to the negotiated settlement of a long-standing dispute involving the county's Economic Development Commission, and that this settlement set a new tone of cooperation in the county by ushering in a relationship of better communication and teamwork between the municipalities and Barnwell County; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Stapleton's leadership, along with that of his fellow Town Council members and the Town's senior staff, emphasized Public Safety and, in so doing, instituted a Community Policing initiative by establishing a citizen committee that meets on a regular basis with the Chief of Police. Additionally, the mayor's actions and those of others, enhanced the Town's response to the needs of community law enforcement by creating a more favorable environment by which Police personnel can carry out their duties to protect the public. Those actions included housing Police personnel in a newly, renovated Police facility, purchasing new Police vehicles and installing laptops and computer-aided software in the vehicles that allow for better communication among the officers and to and from County E911 Dispatch, and equipping Police officers with body cameras; and

WHEREAS, the Town's leadership further enhanced Public Safety by improving the Town's ISO fire protection rating to be the best in the County; arranged for the delivery of a new fire truck and the purchase of 25 new air packs critical for firefighter safety; and initiated a fire hydrant maintenance program; and

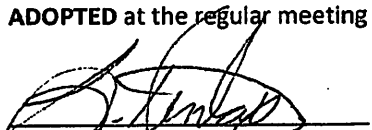
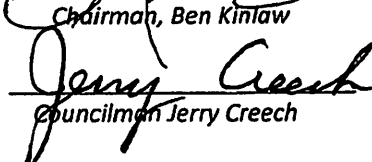
WHEREAS, in Mayor Stapleton's two terms, the Town of Williston instituted a fiscal-sustainability program that resulted in almost \$2 million in grants to supplement Town operations and Capital Projects, and additionally, as part of the fiscal-sustainability program, paid down Town debt, yet maintained a strong fund balance, refinanced the Town's bond to acquire better terms, and did not raise taxes or increase millage; and

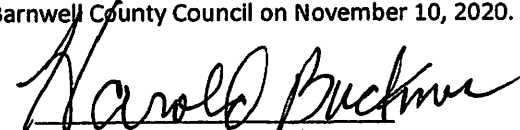
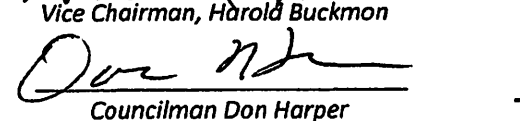
WHEREAS, whether it was in Parks and Recreation with the development of a Park Master Plan; or in Utilities with the development of a Water Master Plan and a Sewer Master Plan; or in Administration with the implementation of the Town's portion of the county-wide Capital Project Sales Tax that included Town water infrastructure, park upgrades, and property acquisition, Jason Stapleton's two terms as mayor set a standard of achievement for all us, as public servants, to seek to emulate not only on the local level, but county, regional and state levels as well.

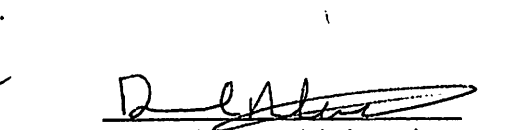
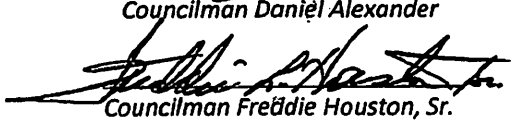
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Barnwell County passed and approved this Resolution recognizing the many accomplishments of Jason Stapleton, Mayor of the Town Williston, from October 1, 2013 to October 13, 2020; and

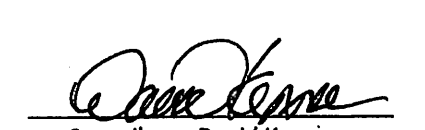
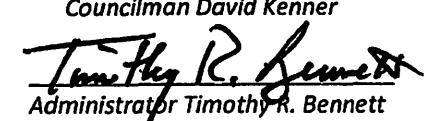
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be included in the official minutes of the Barnwell County Council as a fitting recognition of Jason Stapleton's many contributions to Barnwell County and the Town of Williston.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Barnwell County Council on November 10, 2020.


Chairman, Ben Kinlaw

Councilman Jerry Creech


Vice Chairman, Harold Buckmon

Councilman Don Harper


Councilman Daniel Alexander

Councilman Freddie Houston, Sr.


Councilman David Kenner

Administrator Timothy R. Bennett