

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**August 20, 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 August 20, 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. Vice Chairman Buckmon departed the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Also in attendance were Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black, Economic Development Commission Executive Director Tommy Boyleston, Medshore Operations Chief Phil Clarke, Business Manager Debbie Fickling, Public Works Director Curtis Hogg, and Jonathan Vickery with the People Sentinel. Attorney Ray Jones with Parker Poe was present via speaker phone.

The meeting was called to order, the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given and a quorum was declared. A motion was made for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. Councilman Houston moved for approval of the July 9<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Buckmon 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 responded to 1,266 requests in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 which resulted in 854 transports with an average response time of 10 minutes and 38 seconds. Mr. Clarke said during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Medshore transported 243 patients to the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center (BBEMC) and that since the April 8<sup>th</sup> opening of the BBEMC, the time spent on calls had been significantly reduced due to the ability to transport patients to a closer emergency facility.

#### **Administrator**

Business Manager Fickling briefed Council concerning a bulldozer at the Landfill that was overheating because it was not big enough and was not compacting garbage adequately. Ms. Fickling recommended selling the bulldozer for \$100,000 to pay off the existing loan and purchasing a new wheel loader for \$431,000. The wheel loader could be leased for 8 years at \$62,000 annually and came with a 1 year warranty with the option to purchase a 5 year warranty for \$34,000. Public Works Director Hogg recommended the additional warranty and said this wheel loader would compact twice the amount of garbage as the bulldozer. Administrator Bennett requested approval from Council to purchase the wheel loader. Councilman Houston asked where the funds would come from to purchase the equipment and Administrator Bennett said it would be something that would need to be determined at the end of the year. Ms. Fickling said the first payment would not be due until 12 months after delivery of the equipment. Council discussed the life expectancy of the Landfill and the need to compact the garbage adequately. Councilman Houston moved for approval to purchase the wheel loader. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed.

Administrator Bennett said the Legislative Delegation had allocated \$30,462.57 in PARD funds for Barnwell County for 2020 and that he would alert Senator Hutto, Representative Hosey and Representative Bamberg that the funds had been received. Regarding Courthouse repairs, Administrator Bennett said the bids for Courthouse repairs would go out in October and would be awarded in December. Repairs would begin in January of 2020. Administrator Bennett requested approval to allow Animal Shelter volunteers to operate a van that had been donated to the County and would be used for Animal Shelter activities. County Attorney Mosteller had reviewed the policy and it had been approved by the Insurance Reserve Fund. Volunteers would be required to register with the Animal Shelter, provide a copy of their driver's license and adhere to the portion of the employee personnel manual related to vehicle usage. Councilman Houston moved for approval to allow volunteers to operate the van. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Administrator Bennett requested Council's consensus to move forward in signing a 4 year FAA grant. The grant was 90% with a grant match of 10% which would come out of the Airport's operating budget. Councilman Harper moved for approval for the Administrator to sign the Airport grant. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Attorney Mosteller briefed Council on the Hospital Debt Setoff Program and said Attorney McCarthy had requested Council's approval for the continuation of the Program. Councilman Creech moved for approval for the continuation of Attorney McCarthy administering the Debt Setoff program. Vice Chairman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

#### **Financial Report**

Administrator Bennett reviewed the Financial Report provided in the Council packet. Business Manager Fickling said costs for Inland Marine Insurance had mistakenly not been included in the FY 18-19 budget and that she had asked Finance Director Maria Williams to add a separate budget line item so Department Heads would know to include these costs in their budget requests. Administrator Bennett said he would meet monthly with each Department and the Finance Committee to review expenditures.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Boards and Commissions**

Vice Chairman Buckmon said Patrick Richardson had resigned from the EDC Board and he moved for approval to appoint Councilman Don Harper to replace him on the At Large seat. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said he was unaware that Mr. Richardson had resigned and he moved to appoint Shelby Broomfield to the vacant seat. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion. Councilman Houston said the Board already had a Council member serving. There was discussion as to whether Council could serve on the EDC Board and Attorney Mosteller confirmed that Council members could serve on the Board. Councilman Houston said Ms. Broomfield was active in the STEM program and in the community and she would be a minority female on the Board. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

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

Councilman Harper moved for approval to appoint Sandy Cochran to the Planning Commission for District 3. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved for approval to appoint Angela Cotton to the Recreation Committee for District 5. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Houston moved for approval to re-appoint Anne Rice to the SRS Community Reuse Organization Board. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Councilman Houston said all Council members, not just one or two members, should be made aware of board vacancies and he made the motion that Council as a whole be notified of vacancies on Boards and Commissions At Large seats before a nomination could be made. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Creech and Councilman Harper voted no.

Councilman Creech moved for approval that the Recreation Committee become a standalone committee and that it be renamed Parks and Recreation Committee. Councilman Houston moved for approval to table the motion and said renaming a committee or removing a committee from under Council should be on the agenda and brought before Council as a resolution or an ordinance. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion. Council discussed the purpose of Councilman Creech's request and if it was related to the use of PARD funds. Administrator Bennett clarified that the intent was not to obtain PARD funds but to bring focus and raise awareness of recreation opportunities through the Recreation Committee. Councilman Creech reviewed the various areas that the Recreation Committee could be involved. Attorney Mosteller said changes to the Recreation Committee would require 3 readings of an ordinance as it was a part of the Rules of Procedure. Councilman Creech withdrew his motion.

**Government, Science/Technology & Regulatory Matters, Housing, Finance, Personnel, Transportation, Health Care, Safety, and Judicial, Services** - No reports.

### **Economic Development**

Councilman Harper said Administrator Bennett had already briefed Council on the Airport FAA grant. Danny Black and Tommy Boyleston would brief Council on another Economic Development matter during Executive Session.

### **Services**

Councilman Kenner said Administrator Bennett and Business Manager Fickling had already briefed Council regarding the bulldozer and wheel loader. Other items would be covered during Executive Session.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Refinancing of Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds, Series 2019**

Attorney Ray Jones with Parker Poe reviewed the pricing results and annual cost savings of \$59,366 due to the refinancing of installment purchase revenue bonds. This was an update and no action was needed for this agenda item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution to Adopt a Continuing Disclosure Policy to Ensure the County Maintains Adequate Procedures for Gathering, Analyzing and Disclosing All Required Information Pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities**

Attorney Ray Jones with Parker Poe reviewed the concept and purpose of the County adopting a Continuing Disclosure Policy. Councilman Houston moved for approval of this Resolution. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discussions Related to Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding Economic Development, Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding Land Acquisition, Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding Multi-Purpose Arena Feasibility Study, Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding a Charity Designation for Proposed Multi-Purpose Arena, and Pre-Contractual Matters Regarding the County Attorney - No action taken in Executive Session.**

**OPEN SESSION**

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

Councilman Alexander moved for approval of the Resolution Transferring the Fee-in-Lieu Assignment From Orchids to the potential new owner. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Alexander moved for approval authorizing the County Attorney to work with the Recreation Committee to development an option agreement with a potential land owner for the arena. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Alexander moved for approval authorizing the County Attorney to form a non-profit to be qualified for a 501C type designation along with the Recreation Committee. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.



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Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council



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Ben Kinlaw, Council Chairman