

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
September 10, 2020
Special Called County Council Minutes

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the news media were notified & notice was posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnwell County Council met for a special called council meeting on September 10, 2020, at 2 p.m. Attending were Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Vice Chairman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Freddie Houston, Councilman David Kenner, Councilman Don Harper, Administrator Tim Bennett and Barnwell County Business Manager Debbie Fickling. Councilman Daniel Alexander, Councilman Jerry Creech and County Attorney J.D. Mosteller joined by teleconference.

The special called meeting was called to order by Chairman Kinlaw. Chairman Houston gave the invocation and Councilman Kenner led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was declared. Councilman Houston made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Buckmon. Motion carried.

Resolution for the Acquisition of Vehicles and Equipment

Business Manager Fickling presented the Resolution for the county to borrow \$148,000 for 4 vehicles for the Sheriff's Office to keep his fleet up to date and for financing for a slope mower for the Public Works Department. She said the total pay back will be \$152,000 with 3 annual payments at 1.64% interest, and this financing will qualify as Qualified Tax-Exempt Financing under the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code. She said the stated interest rate assumes the county does not expect to borrow more than \$10,000,000 in the current calendar year. She said the annual payment will be \$50,960, which will be \$33,636 for the Sheriff's portion and \$17,324 for Public Works. Business Manager Fickling said Public Works currently has a loan payment of \$26,000 which will be paid in full in December, and this will result in their loan obligation for the next fiscal year's budget being less than the current year unless more equipment is needed.

Councilman Houston made a motion that council pass the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Harper. Motion carried.

Councilman Harper made a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice, seconded by Councilman Houston. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken in Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Councilman Houston made a motion that the county sign the retainer with Williams and Williams, with Council Chairman Kinlaw sitting at the table representing the county during the process, seconded by Councilman Harper. Motion carried.

Administrator Bennett clarified and confirmed the advice received from County Attorney Mosteller, who recommended that the county work with SCA and enter into a contract with Williams and Williams Law Firm, which the County Attorney confirmed was the advice given. Administrator Bennett explained to the county attorney that the motion had passed for the county to sign the retainer with Williams and Williams and asked the county attorney if this met his recommendation to which he replied, "yes, absolutely, 100%."

Councilman Houston made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kenner. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL


Ben Kinlaw, Chairman

ATTEST:


Elaine S. Ferguson, Clerk to Council

Approved: 10/13/20