

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
July 9, 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 July 9, 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. Clerk to Council Kim Futrell was unable to attend.

Also in attendance were Senator Brad Hutto, Representatives Justin Bamberg and Lonnie Hosey, Dean Chris Nesmith with USC-Salkehatchie, Operations Chief Phil Clarke with Medshore, 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. A motion was made for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded and it passed. A motion was made for approval of the June 11th, June 14th, June 27th (5 pm), and June 27th (6 pm) minutes. Councilman Houston requested that the minutes reflect he had left the June 11th meeting early. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Presentation of Check for Proposed Multi-Purpose Arena

On behalf of Council, Chairman Kinlaw thanked Senator Hutto and Representatives Bamberg and Hosey for their support of the Multi-Purpose Arena and work in obtaining grant funds for the arena. Senator Hutto presented a \$750,000 grant check to Council and Recreation Committee members. Representative Hosey expressed his appreciation for everyone working together.

Public Comments

Barnwell County Library Manager Tricia Gordon invited Council to an informational session being held on July 23rd at 6 pm at the Barnwell County Library to kick off the SC Codes Initiative. Ms. Gordon said due to the efforts of Norma Rockwell, Barnwell County would be the first rural county offering this free coding education to County residents who want to increase their technical skills or to learn about coding.

UPDATES

USC-Salkehatchie

Dean Nesmith reviewed USC-Salkehatchie's various degree programs, the dual high school credit program and the opportunities for USC-Salkehatchie students to earn a four year degree through its partnership with other campuses and by earning credits online.

Medshore

Operations Chief Clarke compared the transport and response time averages from 2018 to 2019 and said the opening of the Bamberg Barnwell Emergency Center had significantly reduced the average transport and response times.

Administrator

Administrator Bennett said Standard & Poor's had reaffirmed its previous A+ rating for the County and A rating for bonds. Work continued on preparing the FY19-20 budget, completing the grant application with the State Parks Recreation & Tourism Department regarding the Multi-Purpose Arena, and interviewing firms concerning the feasibility study for the arena.

Financial Report

Administrator Bennett reviewed the financial report and said during preparation of the FY 19-20 budget, the Finance Committee reviewed the County's budgets for the last 10 years. Departmental expenses had been level each year with the large increases coming from employee benefits and public safety. The Finance Committee would continue to look for ways to increase revenues and reduce expenditures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boards and Commissions

Axis 1 Board	Ronald Brown	Reappointed	District 29, Seat 5
Economic Development Commission	Harold Buckmon	Reappointed	At Large
Economic Development Commission	Patrick Richardson	Reappointed	At Large
Planning Commission	Sally Smith	Reappointed	District 4
Planning Commission	Mike Anderson	Appointed	District 5 (District 4 Resident)
Planning Commission	Robin Hutto	Nominated	District 7 (District 1 Resident)
Recreation Committee	Angela Burton Cotton	Nominated	District 5 (District 7 Resident)

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

Finance

Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee met on July 18th to discuss the Air Methods Agreement which was on the agenda under New Business.

Transportation

Councilman Creech said bids to put rock on 5 short roads went out on June 28th. The Lunar Lane project and the entrance to the Industrial Park had been completed.

Safety

Councilman Harper said the Safety Committee had met and discussed revamping the Committee to include an emphasis on workplace safety and the rising cost of Workman's Compensation.

Services

Councilman Buckmon said the Recycling Committee would meet on July 26th to discuss ideas to help invigorate recycling efforts in the community. Councilman Houston requested repair of the potholes at the Williston Convenience Site. Councilman Creech thanked the Recreation Committee and everyone involved in the multi-purpose arena efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) for the Appointment of Tommy Boyleston to the Workforce Development Board Representing the Private Sector

Councilman Houston moved for approval to appoint Tommy Boyleston to the LSCOG Workforce Development Board. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and it passed.

Review and Potential Approval of Agreement with Air Methods

Council discussed the Air Methods Agreement and confirmed with Attorney Mosteller that the County would not be liable if the Agreement were not renewed. Administrator Bennett said the FY 18-19 budget did not include the Agreement cost. Medhsore Operations Chief Phil Clarke said Air Methods transports were still vital to trauma patients requiring air transportation to specialty units. Consideration of the Agreement was tabled to allow Council to hold a Special Called Council Meeting to hear the recommendations of the EMS Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of Personnel Matters Related to Implementation of the FY 19-20 Budget

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.



Timothy R. Bennett, Administrator



Ben Kinlaw, Council Chairman