

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**June 13, 2017 - 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 on June 13, 2017 at 6 pm. Attending were Chairman Lowell Jowers Sr., Vice Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Councilman David Kenner, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Senator Hutto, Representative Hosey, Tommy Boyleston, Anna McCollum, Missy Noland, Liana Orr and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given. A quorum was declared and a motion was made to approve the May 9, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded and it passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Missy Noland said the Barnwell Urgent Care Center was open 5 days a week from 11 am to 7 pm and by the end of August would be open 7 days a week. The facility had 2 nurse practitioners and was accepting patients by appointment and by walk in. Liana Orr invited everyone to the Historic Church Tour being hosted by the Barnwell County Museum on July 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm. Tickets were \$10 with lunch provided.

#### **Healthcare**

Senator Hutto said that through the collaborative efforts of Senator Matthews, Representative Hosey, Representative Bamberg, the Orangeburg/Calhoun Regional Medical Center, MUSC, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the SCA, the Bamberg County Council, the Barnwell County Council and himself, a standalone emergency room was being built on a 10 acre campus located between Hilda and Denmark and would be in operation by the summer of 2018. The facility, owned and operated by the RMC, was being built using a \$3,300,000 State grant and \$5,000,000 in funding from the RMC and would utilize telemedicine through MUSC. Representative Hosey thanked Senator Hutto, as well as the RMC representatives, for making the ER facility possible and encouraged the community to utilize the ER when necessary so that it would remain financially viable. Brenda Williams with the RMC thanked everyone involved saying that due to the efforts of Senator Hutto, the DHHS had waived the certificate of occupancy requirement and that it was financially possible only due to the State grant and due to the DHHS increasing the reimbursement rate.

#### **Life Net SC / Air Methods**

Anna McCollum said Air Methods was the largest air medical provider in the Country transporting approximately 100,000 patients per year and that due to the lack of medical care in the 6 County Region, Air Methods had moved their base from Walterboro to Hampton Regional. Membership with Air Methods capped the costs for air transport at what the member's insurance paid with no balance due to the member. The air transport must be provided by Air Methods and must be medically necessary. Regular annual membership cost was \$40 per individual and \$75 per family but group rates were available. Annual membership costs for groups of over 10,000 would be \$2.50 per member. Because the Barnwell County residency census was 20,000, she encouraged the County to consider purchasing a membership plan for each of its citizens to ensure the fixed \$2.50 per citizen cost.

#### **Administrator's Update**

Administrator Williams said a portion of the Capital Project Sales Tax money was available and that projects were underway.

#### **Financial Update**

Administrator Williams reviewed the Financial Report.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Boards and Commissions**

Councilman Houston / Appoint / Nigel Abner / Axis 1 / Seat 7, District #29 (Term expires 2020)  
Councilman Houston / Remove / Ronald Brown / Housing Committee / District 1 (Already serving on Axis 1 Board)  
Councilman Houston / Reappoint / Rebecca Dorch / Axis 1 / Seat 6, District #29 (Term expires 2020)  
Councilman Kenner / Appoint / Liana Orr / Museum Board / District 2 (Term expires 2018)  
Councilman Kenner / Appoint / Kathy Orr / Library Board / District 2 (Term expires 2020)  
Chairman Jowers / Appoint / Marie Peebles / Museum Board / District 4 (Term expires 2020)

**Science, Tech. & Reg. Matters, Transportation, Safety, Housing, Judicial, Services, Healthcare, Personnel**  
No reports.

**Government**

Chairman Jowers said that he and Administrator Williams had met with representatives from Senator Tim Scott's office regarding the DOE PILT payment. The representatives were going to look into the contract stipulation that the payment would only be made if funding were available.

**Finance**

Councilman Houston said the Finance Committee was scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Economic Development**

Economic Development Director Tommy Boyleston said the Economic Development Commission was recommending for approval an agreement in which the \$265,000 balance due on the Hanes Brand Building would be made in payments of \$8,000 every other month with 6% interest. If \$200,000 were paid within 6 months, the debt would be considered paid in full, forgiving \$65,000 of the debt. If within 18 months, the company were to sell the building resulting in a windfall profit, the Company would be required to reimburse the \$65,000 back to the County. Councilman Creech moved to approve the concept of this agreement. Councilman Houston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-Yes	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-Yes	

**Old Business**

**3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Transfer Hair Cemetery Road to Hair Cemetery Trustees**

Councilman Creech moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**New Business**

**Resolution to Amend Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties Joint County Industrial Park, Curie Solar**

Councilman Creech moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**Economic Development Fund (Compact Fund) Request**

Councilman Creech moved to approve this request. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Rent Space at the Health Department**

This Ordinance was read in name only.

**Acknowledgement of Termination of Elkay Filot**

Councilman Creech moved to acknowledge the termination of this FILOT. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**Inducement Resolution Related to Project Lodgepole**

Councilman Creech moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Harper seconded the motion and it passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Project Lodgepole**

This Ordinance was read in name only.

**Resolution Designating "two plot" Area at Cemetery**

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution Related to Financing Sheriff's Department Vehicles**

Councilman Houston moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

  
 Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman