

**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**July 11, 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 July 11, 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 Anna McCollum and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel.

A public hearing was held to receive comments prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of an ordinance to rent space at the Health Department. There were no public comments. The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Houston moved to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded. Councilman Creech moved to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked if the matter to be discussed would affect the County's financial operations before the August Council meeting and Chairman Jowers indicated that it would not. Councilman Houston said the Court of Appeals ruled against additions or changes being made to agendas during a meeting except in cases where it would affect the County financially. Attorney Mosteller said amendments were not prohibited in Council's Rules of Procedure and that the Supreme Court's ruling was that an agenda could be amended by majority vote if proper public notice of the meeting had been given. Councilman Kenner said he had not been provided with materials regarding the matter to be discussed as required in Council's Rules of Procedure. Attorney Mosteller confirmed that the Rules of Procedure required material be provided to Council members prior to a meeting. Councilman Creech said the Council members knew what the item pertained to and that it was in the Personnel Committee's recommendations in January. Councilman Houston said the Personnel Committee's recommendation was referred to the Finance Committee and that portion of the Committee's recommendation was not discussed or included in the budget. Councilman Creech said the personnel item had been approved by a majority of Council already and needed to be dealt with to complete the budget. Councilman Houston said the budget was approved by Council at the June Council meeting. Chairman Jowers said the item that had been referred to the Finance Committee was not the present item to be discussed. A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Yes	Councilman Creech-Yes	Councilman Houston-No	Councilman Kinlaw-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes	Councilman Harper-Yes	Councilman Kenner-No	

Councilman Houston moved to approve the June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup> Council meetings minutes. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Buckmon presented wrist watches and Resolutions to Deloris Charlton and Gloria Meyers recognizing their years of service and their retirement from the County.

Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. Jess Wilbanks with United Way said Americorps would be in Barnwell October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> doing projects in the community. She asked Council for a list of community needs and invited them to the October 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Fest. A washer, dryer, paper products and volunteers to host meals for the group were needed. Carol Priester from School District 19 said she was troubled that Council would be voting on a resolution in support of school consolidation because Council had not asked the School District Representatives for their input or notified them that the resolution would be discussed at the current meeting. Chairman Jowers responded that Council had no control over consolidation and the resolution only showed Council's support of it. Ms. Priester said she felt it necessary to voice her concerns to represent the students and the district she served and that Council's approval of the resolution would imply to the State Legislature that the districts whom Council represented were in favor of consolidation.

#### **Life Net SC / Airmethods**

Anna McCollum said Airmethods was in discussions with TRMC to be their preferred provider. In response to Councilman Creech's questions, Ms. McCollum said Airmethods had 5 helicopters in SC with an average response time from Hampton to Barnwell being between 12 to 20 minutes. Membership only included Airmethods transport so if they were unavailable and transport was done by another provider, membership would not cover the expense. Membership cards would not be issued. County residents would not be billed, once providing proof of residency. Airmethod decals could be placed in the DMV office. Barnwell County could advertise to make residents aware of their membership. Airmethods typically did not advertise, but could do so. Nonresident Barnwell County employees could not be covered at the county wide rate agreement but the County could purchase a separate group rate plan of 10 or more for its nonresident County employees at \$35 for individuals or \$70 for households. Chairman Jowers confirmed that County Council had approved contracting with Airmethods and the County needed to identify its nonresident County employees. Ms McCollum said, as with Allendale who had purchased County employee memberships, it would be handled similarly. Nonresident County employees would complete an application and the County would remit one check. Vice Chairman Kinlaw confirmed with Administrator Williams there were between 12 to 15 nonresident County employees, thus meeting the group rate threshold of 10 or more.

#### **Financial Update**

Administrator Williams reviewed the Financial Report.

**Administrator's Update**

Administrator Williams said another bid opening for replacement of the Transfer Station would be on July 19<sup>th</sup> with the project being funded by the Capital Project Sales Tax. Public Works continued work on the Battlecreek Subdivision. Councilman Houston asked if the certification of the County Building Inspector would enable him to determine if buildings should be demolished and if so, the possibility of contracting those services out to the municipalities.

**Committee Reports**

**Boards and Commissions**

Chairman Jowers nominated David Dangerfield to Museum Board, District 6 / Term Expires 2020  
Chairman Jowers appointed Carol Padgett (resides in District 6) to Axis 1, District 4 / Term Expires 2020  
Vice Chairman Kinlaw appointed Cheyenne Jackson as alternate to Fire Commission, District 5 / Term Expires 2019  
Councilman Houston reappointed James Lawrimore to Fire Commission, District 1 / Term Expires 2020  
Councilman Buckmon appointed Patrick Felder to Fire Commission, District 6 / Term Expires 2018  
Councilman Buckmon appointed Tyler Handberry as alternate to Fire Commission, District 6 / Term Expires 2018  
Councilman Buckmon reappointed Sybil Horton to Library Board, District 6 / Term Expires 2018

**Government, Science / Tech. & Regulatory Matters, Transportation, Safety, Finance, Housing, Judicial, Services, Economic Development Commission, Personnel** - No reports were given.

**Health Care**

Councilman Creech said there would be an open house on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Urgent Care Center. Its operating hours had been extended to 8 pm five days a week and beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Center would be open seven days a week.

**Old Business**

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Related to Project Lodgepole**

Councilman Creech moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this Ordinance. The motion was seconded and it passed.

**Termination of Elkay FILOT**

Councilman Creech moved to approve the termination of this FILOT agreement. The motion was seconded and it passed.

**New Business**

**Appointments to the Workforce Development Board**

Councilman Creech moved to appoint Sarah Walker and Rebecca Whitehead to the Workforce Development Board. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution Abandoning and Cancelling Easement**

Vice Chairman Kinlaw moved to approve this Resolution. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

**Resolution Regarding School Consolidation**

Councilman Kenner moved to table this Resolution. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. Council discussed forming a group to meet with School District Representatives regarding school consolidation.

Councilman Creech moved to enter into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Kinlaw seconded the motion and it passed.

**Executive Session**

No action was taken in Executive Session

**Open Session**

Councilman Creech moved to approve a raise for an employee as discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested and the motion passed.

Chairman Jowers-Abstained      Councilman Creech-Yes      Councilman Houston-No      Councilman Kinlaw-Yes  
Councilman Buckmon-Yes      Councilman Harper-Yes      Councilman Kenner-No

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

  
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Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council

  
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Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman