

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
September 19, 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 for their regularly scheduled Council meeting on September 19, 2017 at 6 pm which was rescheduled from September 12th due to Hurricane Irma. Attending were Chairman Lowell Jowers Sr., Vice Chairman Ben Kinlaw, Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Councilman Don Harper, Councilman Freddie Houston Sr., Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney JD Mosteller, and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Tommy Boyleston, Wendy Gibson Sr., Anna McCollum and Laura McKenzie with the People Sentinel. Councilman David Kenner was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance and invocation were given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Creech moved to amend the agenda by adding the approval of application for reimbursement of eligible expenses related to Hurricane Irma to the agenda under new business. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 8th Council meeting minutes. The motion passed. Chairman Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for public comments. There were none. Chairman Jowers presented a wrist watch and a resolution to Wendall Gibson Jr. recognizing his retirement from the County. There was a ceremonial signing of the Air Methods contract and Anna McCollum presented Council members with Air Methods shirts and a framed copy of the signed contract.

Administrator's Update

Administrator Williams said he had received a schedule of the work from the contractor replacing the Transfer Station and information would be placed in the paper and on the website of the dates the Transfer Station would be closed. The two new fire trucks being purchased using rural fire millage would be picked up by the end of the week and would be located in Hilda and the Barnwell Rural Station. The preparation for the paving of Battlecreek was progressing well. The engineering preparation on the entrance to the Industrial park off of 278 was progressing and research was being done on Buice, Pruitt and Augustine Streets.

Financial Update

Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report.

Committee Reports

Boards and Commissions

Councilman Buckmon moved to appoint Patrick Richardson to the EDC Board for District 45. Councilman Creech seconded the motion. Councilman Harper moved to appoint Brett Bell to the EDC Board for District 19. Councilman Houston asked for clarification on the District number. Councilman Harper corrected the motion to District 29. Councilman Houston said since District 29 was a seat that both he and Councilman Harper shared, he would like the opportunity to discuss the appointment before it was made. Councilman Harper changed his motion to that of a nomination for Brett Bell to the EDC Board for District 29. Councilman Kinlaw re-appointed Guy Suter to the Equalization Board of Appeals for District 5. Councilman Creech nominated Tina Gray (living in District 4) to District 7 of the Museum Board.

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

Services

Councilman Buckmon said progress continued on the proposal for privatizing the Landfill.

New Business

Sale of Main Street Building in Williston

Councilman Creech moved to approve the sale of the Main Street Building in Williston for \$200,000. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion and it passed.

Service Agreement with Southern Carolina Alliance

Councilman Creech moved to approve the service agreement with Southern Carolina Alliance with the continuation amendment of 2017. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. Councilman Houston asked if the agreement was basically the same contract, with no new debt addendum added to it, as it was in the past. Councilman Creech responded "right" and said that Councilman Houston was supposed to have a copy. Councilman Houston confirmed that he did. Chairman Jowers called for a vote and the motion passed.

Waiver of 60 Day Hiring Freeze for Treasurer's Office

Councilman Creech moved to approve the waiver of the 60 day temporary hiring freeze for the Treasurer's Office to fill the Deputy Treasurer position. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Resolution Related to Purchase of Two Fire Trucks

Councilman Harper moved to approve this resolution. The motion was seconded and it passed.

FY 2017-2018 Millage Resolution

Councilman Houston moved to approve this resolution. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Recommendation Concerning Veterans Affairs Office

Councilman Houston moved to approve the recommendation that the Veterans Affairs Office hours be increased to 30 hours per week. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

Approval of Application for Reimbursement of Eligible Expenses Related to Hurricane Irma

Councilman Creech moved to approve the application of reimbursement of eligible expenses related to Hurricane Irma which would include eligible expenses such as hours worked by exempt and non-exempt employees, fuel, supplies, equipment usage, and barricades that were expended in response to the threat of a catastrophe that was expected from Hurricane Irma. Councilman Houston seconded the motion and it passed.

Councilman Houston moved to enter into executive session. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive Session

No action was taken in Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.



Kim Futrell, Clerk of Council



Charles Lowell Jowers Sr., Council Chairman

