# BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL
## June 30, 2014
## 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 30, 2014. In attendance were Councilman Harold Buckmon, Councilman Jerry Creech, Chairman Freddie Houston, Councilman Lowell Jowers, Vice-Chairman David Kenner, Councilman Keith Sloan, Councilman Joe Smith, Administrator Pickens Williams Jr., County Attorney J.D. Mosteller and Clerk to Council Kim Futrell. Also in attendance were Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen, Sheriff Carroll, Attorney Kozlarek and Will Whaley with the People Sentinel.

***Public Hearings / Call to Order / Invocation / Declaration of a Quorum / Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes***
Public Hearings were held to receive comments prior to the 3rd reading of the FY '14-'15 Budget Ordinance and an Ordinance to sell a lot on Charles Street. There were no comments regarding either of the ordinances. The meeting was called to order, the invocation was given and a quorum was declared. Councilman Jowers moved to amend the agenda to include Council's consideration of the Council Chair sending a letter of support for Axis I. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed. Motions were made to approve the minutes for the May 13th, June 6th, and June 13th Council meetings. The motions were seconded and each of the motions passed.

***Welcome / Public Comments***
Jim Arnold cited several sections of the 2014 Career Center policy manual to validate his position that the Career Center should be making openings available for all Barnwell County citizens including students that are homeschooled or that attend private school. Travis Lee Avant, running for House District 90, introduced himself to Council. Administrator Williams introduced Joyce Brooks, the new Veteran's Affairs officer.

***Updates***
Clerk of Court
Clerk of Court Rhonda McElveen distributed a report and gave an update on upcoming Court sessions.

Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Carroll distributed a report which included an update of 17,775 pounds of litter which had been picked up from the roadways. The Sheriff said the Department had received a $34,434 grant for a new live scan automated fingerprint machine and that if it was cost effective, would be putting the older live scan machine at the Detention Center.

County Administrator
Administrator Williams said there would be an event on July 3rd at 6 pm at the Airport to thank all the volunteers that helped in the clean up after the ice storm. In Emergency Management, Roger and he were still in the process of working with FEMA in getting reimbursements for costs related to the ice storm. Under Fire Coordinator, the substation on Hwy 300 was complete and the substation on Patterson Mill Road was nearing completion. Council discussed the remaining area that needed a substation to allow for a lower ISO rating. Under Solid Waste, there was money in the budget to dispose of e-waste.

***Committee Reports***
Boards and Commissions
Councilman Sloan made a motion for the following appointments:
Ronnie Brown - Axis I Board - Seat 5, Distr. 29. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion and it passed.
Donnie Dunaway - Generations Unlimited – Distr. 3. Councilman Kenner seconded the motion and it passed.
Adam Altman - Capital Project Sales Tax Committee – Distr. 45. Councilman Creech seconded the motion and it passed.
Councilman Sloan asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Tommy Boylston who had resigned from the Career Center Board. Council discussed making an appointment to fill a vacant At Large seat on the Airport Commission and it was determined that all At Large seats would no longer be filled, once vacant or the term expired.

Economic Development
Councilman Jowers said Lake Side Plastics was moving out and he and Councilman Creech were scheduled to go through the building with Mike Cuttill on July 8th. Council also discussed a Promissory Note regarding NK Newlook in Blackville, if there was any equipment in the building and who the ownership of the building would revert to. Council requested Attorney JD Mosteller to review the Promissory Note to investigate what rights Barnwell County and the EDC had regarding ownership. Council also discussed the building which housed Sara Lee regarding if there were keys available to access the building and what condition the building was in.

Finance Committee
Councilman Sloan said the FY '14-'15 Budget was being presented later on the agenda and that the Finance Committee would meet as needed once per quarter.

Financial Update
Administrator Williams reviewed the financial report beginning July 31st through May 31st giving clarification on account 480 and account 2035.

Government
Chairman Houston addressed several concerns which had been presented to Council by letter prior to the Council meeting regarding the reconstruction of the EDC Board and what was being done regarding the recovery of the property.

Healthcare
Councilman Jowers said that a lot of progress was being made with the hospital and that there were now two new doctors and a surgeon at the hospital.

Housing, Judicial, Personnel, Safety, & Services
There were no reports for the above Committees.

Science, Technology & Regulatory Matters
Councilman Sloan said he had spoken with Danny Black with the SCA who said there was a need for this Committee to become much more engaged with the industry coming in. Further discussion was held concerning funds that were set aside for clean up but could not be used.

SCRDA
Councilman Jowers said that SCA had announced that Augusta Fiberglass was beginning operations in Bamberg and investing $800,000 in manufacturing equipment. Kronotex in Barnwell was expanding, investing $29,500,000 and creating 28 new jobs. The SCA advanced manufacturing welding training program had produced 47 certified welders, 45 of whom gained employment upon graduation and another program had begun. Councilman Sloan said he had spoken with Danny Black at the SCA regarding receiving financial reports and that they were working on developing a system to generate the requested reports.

Transportation
Councilman Creech said progress on some C Fund projects was at a standstill as the Committee was waiting on legal services to proceed.

***New Business***
1st Reading of an Ordinance to Sell a Lot on Calhoun Street
This Ordinance was read in name only.

***Old Business***
3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Sell a Lot on Charles Street
Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3rd Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. The motion passed. Councilman Buckmon abstained.

3rd Reading of FY '14-'15 Budget Ordinance
Councilman Sloan commended Administrator Williams, the Finance Committee and Council for their hard work in the budget preparation and discussed the Budget Ordinance at length saying this year's budget did not include a tax increase, did include a 2 percent cost of living increase for all but 9 employees, and included additional funds in the grant match program. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 3rd Reading of the FY '14-'15 Budget Ordinance which included the Fire Commission's budget. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested.

Chairman Houston-Yes
Councilman Buckmon-Yes
Councilman Creech-Yes
Councilman Jowers-Yes
Councilman Kenner-Yes
Councilman Sloan-Yes
Councilman Smith-Yes

The motion passed.

2nd Reading of an Ordinance Related to the Capital Project Sales Tax
Attorney Kozlarek explained the process remaining with the Capital Project Sales Tax referendum and discussed what the procedures would be should any funds remain once all projects were completed. Councilman Sloan moved to approve the 2nd Reading of this Ordinance. Councilman Jowers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Capital Project Sales Tax List
Council discussed the necessity to add or modify the amounts assigned to the project list already approved by Council as it appeared there would be additional monies generated from the sales tax. Councilman Sloan moved that the project listing would be as follows in order of priority. Councilman Buckmon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

1. Court House – $3,500,000
2. Scale House - $100,000
3. Agricultural Building - $850,000
4. Richardson Building renovation - $725,000
5. Reynolds Road Pipe/Water project - $700,000

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim A. Futrell
Clerk to Council

Freddie Houston
Council Chairman