

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
July 6, 2020 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812
Live feed from Facebook Live for Public

REGULAR SESSION

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Rivera presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Billy Dozier, and Robert Pattillo

Council Members Absent: James Moody

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Chief of Police Brian Johnson, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley.

The news media was notified but none were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Williams led in prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED
BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2020

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 budget workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2020-3, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CONSENT TO PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.'S APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE OR VIDEO SERVICING AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2020-3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2020-4, AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SC FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2020-4. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO OFFER TACKLE FOOTBALL TO AGES 9-12 AND TO JOIN WITH THE AIKEN COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Councilman Dozier stated that he believed this would provide a safe environment for tackle football. Mayor Rivera stated that the recreation committee met about this option and came to the decision to make this recommendation. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the recreation committee's recommendation to offer tackle football to ages 9-12 by joining the Aiken County youth football program. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams. Discussion followed. The motion passed with Mayor Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier voting for the motion. Councilman Pattillo abstained

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2020

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED USE OF FORCE AND PURSUIT
POLICIES FOR POLICE**

Chief Johnson stated that he has crafted the new policies based on recommendations from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The biggest change on the use of force policy is that the opening statement now contains a Sanctity of Life statement. The highlighted portions in the policies provided to Council are the main changes from previous policies. There will be training on the new policies on July 9th and 10th if it is approved by Council. Mayor Rivera made a motion to approve the updated Use of Force and Pursuit Policies for Police. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

**TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS TO COVER COUNCIL ABSENCES:
WATER & SEWER, POLICE, FIRE, BUILDING AND PLANNING**

The committee assignments for Councilman Black and Councilman Barker needed to be reassigned. Mayor Rivera stated that he wanted to allow Council to choose for themselves which committee they would like to be on based on their schedules. The following assignments were made:

Water & Sewer – Mayor Rivera
Police – Councilmen Dozier and Moody and Mayor Rivera
Fire – Councilman Pattillo
Building & Planning – Mayor Pro Tem Williams

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Rivera and Dozier) – Director Stanley updated Council on the demolition of the trickling filter. The cost was kept down by doing the work ourselves. The deadline for completion is August 9th but the work should be completed within a week. The service pole for the Lift Station fell over and ripped the wiring out of the building. We had to do an emergency repair on that this morning.

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – Director Stanley stated that his department was working hard to keep up with everything and get caught up on cutting the grass.

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Director Davis stated that the recreation department is now fully staffed, all parks are open and park usage is high. We are

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2020

doing virtual summer programs for nine weeks with a drawing for prizes for each program. The Farmer's Market is going well with about six vendors. We should know about fall sports by mid-July.

Police (Councilmen Dozier, Moody, and Mayor Rivera) – Chief Johnson stated that there was a large party out in the county over the weekend and the Allendale gang retaliated by shooting several people at this party. No arrests were made. Mayor Rivera stated that it is extremely important that we get after some of these people. We are going to have to partner with SLED and the County and make some arrests. If not, people are going to continue doing what they are doing. If we do not make any arrests, then it looks like we are allowing it. Chief Johnson stated that the community is going to have to want a change for that to happen.

Fire (Councilmen Pattillo and Moody) – No Report

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Dozier) – Councilman Dozier stated that a rough draft of the bid package for the splash pad should be completed by August 1st and be finalized by August 31st. We want to try to go out for bids in September. We will need an update by September from the County about the availability of capital project sales tax funds. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated that he voted against the splash pad to begin with. He felt that Council should be ashamed to spend that kind of money on a splash pad when we need a fire station. He knows that the capital project sales tax money cannot be used to build a fire station, but it is the perception that people have that we are spending half a million dollars on something that in his opinion is frivolous. He stated that he is strongly against the splash pad. Mayor Rivera stated that he appreciates Mr. Williams opinion, but he believes we have got to give our citizens something. Councilman Dozier stated that we also spend a lot of money on sports, but it is hard to come up with something that everyone can do. The splash pad is something that everyone, including people with disabilities, can enjoy. Administrator McEwen stated that she has spoken with an attorney and the attorney said that unless the money doesn't come in for the project, the project has to be done because it was approved by the voters in a referendum. She had a contractor look at the fire station and a rough draft of the repairs that need to be done will be between \$400,000.00 and \$450,000.00. The state has given us \$350,000.00. The exact cost will not be known until we go out for bids.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

-The special election for council seats for District 2 and 3 will be September 22nd. Candidate filing will open on July 27th at noon and will close on August 7th at noon.

-Census update. City of Barnwell is still leading the County, but we are falling behind in the state. We need to continue to encourage citizens to fill out their census forms.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2020


-SCDNR – Lake Edgar Brown and Fish Hatchery. I had a meeting this week with Brian Boyleston, Hatchery Manager and Nicole Kish, State Assistant Hatchery Coordinator. We discussed the Palmetto Pride Grant which allowed the City to purchase additional trash containers for the parking areas at the lake. SCDNR will determine the locations for the seven trash cans. Our street department will continue to dump the trash from the receptacles at the lake twice a week due to increased usage. Brian Boyleston will be moving to Barnwell and working to take care of the lake and hatchery. They are currently working on the hatchery. They will begin working on the dike wall sometime this year. All the crepe myrtles will be removed over the next few years. The crepe myrtle trees/roots have caused major issues in the wall and thus must be removed before more damage continues. We will be working with them on the other parts of the dike wall, including the streetlamps and the benches.

-There will be a conference call set up with the county later this week regarding face masks. We did not have this on the agenda, so if the Council would like to consider discussing it, we will need to schedule an emergency special called meeting this week. I have provided for information purposes only, the model ordinance from the Municipal Association for wearing masks in public. The subject will be on the County Council's agenda on July 14th. A special called meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, July 8th. The time will be confirmed by the Mayor.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2020