

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
August 3, 2020 – 5:30PM**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED BY REGULAR SESSION**

Barnwell City Council met for a Public Hearing on the FY21 budget followed by Regular Session with Mayor Rivera presiding.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Chief of Police Brian Johnson.

Mr. Jonathan Vickery of the People Sentinel was also present.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

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

The Mayor opened the public hearing and Councilman Pattillo led in prayer. There was no public comment. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

**REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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**UPDATE ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROMISE ZONE FROM JULIE DEMPSEY,  
COORDINATOR**

Ms. Dempsey gave Council an update on the SC Promise Zone. She explained that it was a six county area that includes Barnwell. Southern Carolina Alliance applied for this federal designation and received it in 2015. The designation will expire in 2025. This designation allows preferential points when applying for certain federal grants. Ms. Dempsey stated that if Council would like to have a meeting to discuss possible funding for any potential projects, she can schedule a Webinar. They will also write an endorsement letter or support letter to attach to any grant applications done by the City. This will give a little more strength to the application because of the promise zone designation.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2020 EMERGENCY SPECIAL  
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2020 emergency special called Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**SECOND AND FINAL 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 Rivera stated that he thought that at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> budget workshop it was stated that we would have another budget meeting to go over possible changes that were discussed during the workshop. He did not understand why we were having the final reading without discussion on any changes. Administrator McEwen explained that the changes were made to the budget for the first reading of the ordinance presented at the July Council meeting. Any changes were highlighted, summarized, and given to the entire Council. Any questions should have been brought up during discussion at the July meeting. The first reading was passed without any discussion, so it was assumed that everyone agreed with the changes. Mayor Rivera asked what changes were made. Clerk and Treasurer Vargo listed the changes. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman

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Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2020-4. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Mayor Rivera voting against the motion.

**REQUEST BY MAYOR RIVERA AND COUNCILMAN MOODY FOR THE CITY TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT ON AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Mayor Rivera stated that he and Councilman Moody wanted to do something for the community and decided to do a movie night. They are aware that this will require certain licenses. They are not asking for the City to sponsor or pay for the event but would like the City's support. They originally had set a July date but moved it to August due to the pandemic. They have several sponsors that will help with the event. Councilman Dozier made a motion to sponsor the community movie night. Mayor Rivera asked for discussion. Administrator McEwen asked the City Attorney what the City's liability will be if we sponsor the event but do not pay for it. Mr. Boulware stated that he had not looked at the insurance liability. If we sponsor the event, then it is our event regardless of who pays for it. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated that he understood that the original date was supposed to be in July but was moved to August because of the pandemic. However, the pandemic is not any better than it was in July. He believes that for the City to sponsor anything where a crowd will be gathering is wrong. He believes it is dangerous and irresponsible. Therefore, he opposes it vigorously. Mayor Rivera stated that the health and safety of the community is very important. It will be set up as a drive-in movie versus everyone getting out and sitting amongst each other. He believes the right precautionary measures have been thought out and taken. The motion passed 3 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo voting against the motion.

**REQUEST BY MAYOR RIVERA TO HELP SPONSOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BACK2SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA**

Mayor Rivera discussed the Back2School Extravaganza that was held last year. The event will provide backpacks, school supplies, and teacher supplies. The event will take place on August 29<sup>th</sup> at Cricket Wireless. Councilman Moody stated that he thinks it is a good idea for the City to sponsor this event to show the community that we are involved with the school district. Discussion followed. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to provide \$500 in supplies for this event. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rivera and unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Mayor Rivera and Dozier) – No Report

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Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Councilman Moody stated that the tackle football program with Aiken has been cancelled. Councilman Dozier updated Council on the Fuller Park splash pad project.

Police (Councilmen Dozier, Moody, and Mayor Rivera) – Chief Johnson stated that two officers are currently out, one on medical and one in quarantine before attending the Police Academy.

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) – No Report

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

-The following are some items that we want to put into the paper in the future to help citizens understand the process.

**Yard Debris:** We want to remind residents that yard debris should be placed in the same general area where the cart for household trash is placed. Leaves should be bagged, limbs must be trimmed to the stem, no longer than five (5') feet in length and five (5") inches in diameter and reasonable weight. Large limbs and trunk stumps will not be picked up. Do not use your trash roll cart for yard debris. Also, if the debris amount is larger than normal weekly yard debris, the disposal company will not pick the debris up all at once. It may take several weeks or longer, depending on the amount, to get it all up. If you are concerned about the amount sitting on your front lawn for weeks, it would be wise to carry the debris to the landfill. Yard contractors should not leave debris for the city disposal company to pick up. Do not dump yard debris or other trash on empty lots. This is against city ordinances.

**Furniture:** Couches, mattresses and other furniture will not be picked up. These items along with demolition debris and construction materials must be removed and taken to the proper facilities.

This information was mailed to customers when the new contractor took over, but a reminder seems necessary.

**Permits:** Building permits are required by residents, contractors, and businesses whenever any type of new or renovation construction is performed on a building, including but not limited to enlargements, alterations, demolition or change of occupancy. Electrical, gas and plumbing systems installation or major renovations of these systems also require permits. Contractors must have a valid state license as well as a city business license. Homeowners planning to do work themselves should check with city hall on the work they are planning to verify if permits are required. Permit documents are to be conspicuously placed at the job site and some work

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requires final inspections by the building inspector. If you are unsure if the work you have planned to your residence or business requires a permit, it is best to call the city hall and ask. Code Enforcement: Sections 14:22-23 in the City Ordinances states weeds and grass should be kept cut and not overgrown on any improved properties and that the accumulation of junk, trash or other materials on properties which tend to become unhealthy is unlawful. You may find all of the City's ordinances online at <http://cityofbarnwell.com/code-of-ordinances>. Our Code Enforcement Officer, Drayton Gantt, has been working diligently in sending letters to residents who have properties that need tending and who have unlicensed vehicles in their yards or on their property without tags or without proper cover. This will help us improve the city's overall health and sanitary conditions, as well as keep our ordinances up to date.

-I have a meeting with the general manager of Walmart to discuss trash issues.

-Municode has completed the updated codes for the City. We have received these and I will be sending them out early this month. We will then send out an Ordinance on the September agenda to accept and vote on the updated codes.

-I sent out an email today from WJBF. They are working on some positive stories from our community. Please look that over and if you know of something that they may want to do a story on, please send them that info. They are doing the story on Thursday.

-We are moving up in the Census. We need to encourage people to get their census done.

Mayor Rivera asked if we are doing anything about the dilapidated properties. Administrator McEwen stated that they are working on them.

### ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer