

January 4, 2010

The following are the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Monthly Meeting of the Barnwell City Council held at the Barnwell City Hall on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 6:30 pm.
Minutes on tape.

Present were Mayor Edward Lemon, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams, Sr. and Councilmembers J.T. Atkinson, W.C. Black, Ben Duncan, Robert Pattillo, and Steve Walling.

Also present were City Administrator John Zawacki, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, Police Chief Todd Gantt, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, and Director of Tourism & Community Development Lynn Cox.

Ms Susan Delk of the People Sentinel and several citizens were also present.

Mayor Lemon called the meeting to order and led with a prayer.

Public Comments:

Rhonda McElveen- Ms. McElveen updated Council on the upcoming Court schedule.

Councilman Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

Councilman Patillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved.

Second reading of Ordinance 2009-12 adopting the City of Barnwell Land Development Regulations - Councilman Pattillo made a motion to read ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved. Administrator Zawacki read the ordinance by title only. Councilman Patillo made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 2009-12. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

First reading of Ordinance 2010-01 amending the City of Barnwell Zoning Ordinance – Councilman Atkinson made a motion to read ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved. Administrator Zawacki read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2010-01. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Approval of surplus equipment sale list – Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the list. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Administrator's Update – Administrator Zawacki updated council on the sewer leak from December 16th - the 90 degree Ell fitting just outside the new Main St. lift station failed and spilled approximately 3000 gal of sewage into the ditch next to the Main St station. The ditch runs directly into Heathwood Lake. The flow was stopped by placing a dam across the ditch and set up a recirculation pump to run the sewage back into the wet well. The leak was reported to DHEC and they were happy with our response to the spill. All residents on the lake were informed of the leak. This was the 7th failure of the force main since the new lift station went into operation. The problem is the existing force main is a four inch thin wall sewer pipe which cannot withstand the pressures of the new pumps. Administrator Zawacki requested that Council give him the authority to move forward and contact BP Barber with this engineering (not to exceed \$9,800) and cost estimate. Since this expenditure is under \$10,000, the Administrator has full authority to move forward.

-Administrator Zawacki stated that he and Chief Todd Gantt attended a presentation on the Statewide Court Case Management System. This program was initiated by the state nine years ago and today 81% of the State Counties are on the system. Abbeville, Bamberg, Barnwell, Charleston and Williamsburg are the next in line to get on the system. Due to the fact the county Magistrates are also Municipal Judges the system is being offered to the Cities; the total cost to the county for this system will be \$36,000 per year. The county would expect that the Cities would pick up a share of this cost. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to allow Administrator Zawacki to enter into negotiations with the County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

-There was another sewer leak on Dec. 28th at the DNR offices behind the Hatchery. Approximately 1200 gals of sewage spilled into Turkey Creek. An existing manhole had failed and crumpled in on itself. We contacted DHEC, gave them our notification and sent them our sample results, and they are fine with what we have done. This manhole has to be replaced because it will not last another six months. Administrator Zawacki is getting estimates on what it will take to remove that manhole and put in a concrete pre-fabricated manhole in its' place.

-The Police Dept. received a donation from Kronotex for 2000 sq. ft. of flooring for the new police station. Mayor Lemon went on record as saying "Thank You" to Kronotex and also requested to send them a nice thank you letter.

-As of Jan. 1st Sport Holland is our new City of Barnwell Judge.

-On January 28th a Census educational bus will arrive in Barnwell and be parked in Reid's Plaza from 4 to 6 pm to explain the importance of the complete census count. We have also erected two signs indicating the City's support for the Census; one at the fuller park parking lot and the other at five points. The Census Bureau has requested that they be allowed to place a Census employee in City Hall to answer questions and fill out forms during the Census counting period. Mayor Lemon stated that he read in the paper that during the last ten years, due to under reporting, the State of SC has lost 58 million dollars in federal funds. Administrator Zawacki stated that in the year 2000 SC was 49th in Census letter returns.

-On December 17th Administrator Zawacki, Chief Dicks, and Jimmy Faircloth met with Milliken representatives. The topic of the meeting was a request from Milliken to tie into the city's Potable water line for their fire protection. Milliken also asked for a quote from the city to provide fire protection for their property. Due to the Milliken property sitting in an area carved out of the city limits, City Council would have to approve their request and they would have to enter into a contract with the City. Quotes were sent to them on January 4, 2010.

Committee Reports

Water and Sewer- Councilmen Black and Atkinson. No Report

Sanitation and Streets- Councilmen Black and Atkinson. No Report

Recreation and Parks- Councilmen Pattillo and Walling. New Program guides are out and have been handed out to all elementary and primary school students.

Police- Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Duncan. Chief Gantt updated Council on 2009 cases, crime and grants, including a new \$5,000 grant from Palmetto Pride for litter enforcement.

Fire- Councilmen Walling and Pattillo. No Report

Finance and Salary- Mayor Pro-Tem Williams and Councilman Duncan. No Report.

Building and Planning-Councilmen Atkinson and Black. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion that two hour parking be tabled for the time being. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan.

Community Development & Tourism- Director Lynn Cox. Director Cox stated that we received a Palmetto Pride Grant for \$3,089 to continue the beautification of downtown. Director Cox asked Council to look at the Walking Tour Guide and give feedback on those. Director Cox passed out website statistics and discussed them with Council.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned.