

April 5, 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, April 5, 2010 at 6:30 pm.
Minutes on cd.

Present were Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams, Sr. and Council Members J.T. Atkinson, Ben Duncan, Robert Pattillo, and Steve Walling. Mayor Lemon and Councilman Black were absent.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Williams called the meeting to order and led with a prayer.

Public Comments:

Mr. Maceo Nance of the Rural Development Office of the Department of Commerce came to officially present the council with the Directors award, which had been awarded during the 2010 Rural Summit to the City of Barnwell for its work over the last 2 years in taking the Master Plan and working on it without much help from outside sources.

Rhonda McElveen- Ms. McElveen updated Council on the upcoming Court schedule. Ms. McElveen stated that they are being trained on the CMS System. She also gave an update on mortgages and liens as well as the amount of money in set-off debt cases, which was \$27M from 4944 cases. This includes fees, fines, and restitutions, but she does not believe that this figure includes child support cases.

Rodman Lemon and Howard Shannon gave the council information on surveillance cameras that the city might want to look into for Lemon Park. The council asked them to get in touch with the City Administrator to provide a formal proposal.

Councilman Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2010 regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to accept the 2009 Audit provided by CC & McGregor in March. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved.

Councilman Duncan made a motion to approve the draft copy of the contract for Milliken Fire Services to be sent on to Milliken. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved. Administrator Zawacki explained that if the Milliken Plant property were to eventually be brought back into the city limits, that the contract for fire services would be void since it would be automatically covered when within the city limits.

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to allow Administrator Zawacki to move forward in negotiations with the Aqua Seal Manufacturing & Roofing Company for the annual inspection of the flat roof on top of City Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved.

Councilman Atkinson made a motion for acceptance of the low bid of the local contractor Carroll and Carroll to clean up the city lot on Main St that will be used for additional parking for Lemon Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

Administrator Zawacki read an explanation of the need for a resolution to invest in the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool. Councilman Atkinson made a motion to accept the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

The request for an itinerant business license on the agenda was withdrawn.

Administrator's Update

Once again the state legislators are planning to cut funding for the Local Government fund. The 12 % cut means a reduction of \$4.6 million dollars to SC Cities. I have placed in your council packages a graph that shows Local Government funding to Barnwell over the past nine years. As you can see the estimated funding for this fiscal year and the 2011 fiscal year is less than what the city received in 2003. Once again the reduction will challenge the 2010/2011 general fund budgeting.

The cleanup campaign to remove non-habitable buildings on Perry Street is close to completion. We have only one house on Perry St. left to take down and one house on Hagood St to take down. These will be completed within the next 60 days. This will mean we have removed 6 structures and cleaned up 4 lots on Perry Street.

On March 27th we had the bid opening for the Main St force main. Of 8 plan holders, 6 bid on the project.

I have sent a formal letter to Ms. Joanne Woodrum, District Engineering Administrator, asking to have pedestrian crosswalks installed at US 278 and SC 64 (Sports) and at US 278/SC 64 and SC 70. A copy of the letter is in the council package.

On Monday, March 29th Lynn Cox and I provided an oral presentation on our MASC 2010 Achievement Award application. This was based on public service. The presentation was named City Hall—A Renovation for the Future. We received a letter today informing us that we did not receive this award and that Aiken won in this category.

We had some vandalism at Lemon Park the weekend of March 20th. Five juveniles took the Lemon Park Golf Cart and kept crashing it into the concession stand doing damage to the buildings blocks and golf carts. All five vandals have been arrested.

On Monday, April 26th all members of the city planning commission will be provided with the mandatory continuing education training. This will be a four hour course.

I will be attending a briefing on April 19th to learn about the Army's proposal to use the Barnwell County Airport for Specialized training.

Med Cost insurance update: An overall increase in monthly premiums of 21.6%, an additional tobacco surcharge of \$25 per person per month with a \$75 per family per month maximum for those who use tobacco products.

USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute is requesting that the City pledge \$500 for regional tourism marketing. Lynn Cox explained the request further with information regarding grants and cash matches. Councilman Walling made a motion to pledge the \$500. There was no second, so the motion died.

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. Director Emily Randall stated that the grant application for the Fuller park/Turkey Creek Trail had been submitted. During the recent Easter egg hunts, 25 kids were present for the night egg hunt, and over 200 were at Lemon Park for the Saturday egg hunt. 16 tournaments are scheduled with the possibility of another couple being scheduled for the summer. Emily will provide the council with a list of those tournaments. Summer program guides will be out very soon.

Police- Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Duncan. No Report

Fire- Councilmen Walling and Pattillo. Fire Chief Tony Dicks stated that he would be going to Washington at the end of the month for the National Fire Fighters Association meeting.

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

Building and Planning-Councilmen Atkinson and Black. Additional restrooms are needed out at Lemon Park. Councilman Pattillo made a motion for Administrator Zawacki to move forward in the purchase and building of additional restroom facilities out at Lemon Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved. The cost for this project would run under \$10,000 and funding will come from contingent since this is an unbudgeted expense. Mayor Pro tem Williams thanked Councilman Atkinson for taking his time to draft up a plan for the restroom building.

Community Development & Tourism- Director Lynn Cox. Relay for Life – No softball tournament this weekend, but we are steadily working with luminaries and sponsorships. Also, come by Subway on Thursday, April 22 to get your sub made by some folks from the City of Barnwell...lunchtime – John Zawacki and Lynn Cox, dinner time – Mayor Lemon and Emily Randell. A portion of the profits from that day will be donated to Relay. Relay for Life will be held on the circle on Friday, April 23rd 7pm to 7am, Saturday morning. We hope that the entire community will come out to support the relay, enjoy good food, and play

party games – the theme is Birthday Party. Several celebrities will be dunked in the dunking booth.

Saturday, April 17 – Zero Tolerance for Litter Campaign weekend and community clean-up campaign from 7 am to noon. We would ask that all come out and volunteer a few hours for this our biannual clean-up campaign. Supplies will be available, come sign in at the front of City Hall and we will let you know where you need to pick up.

Wayfinding signage - working on a sign assessment.

Facebook update – since mid March, Facebook has been sending us an update on our page.

Lynn provided an informational sheet from facebook.

BDA – the Barnwell Development Association is going to be holding an event a month downtown to promote our local businesses and shops. The “Third Thursday” Downtown Event will be held – 3rd Thursday of each month from May through October. We will have entertainment – musical groups on the circle as well as some activities. The shops plan to stay open later and businesses that are not downtown can talk with us about setting up...this is part of our new 2010 membership campaign.

Councilman Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved. There was no action taken during executive session.

Councilman Atkinson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the city administrator and city engineer BP Barber to award the Main Street Force Main project to low bidder Babcock Construction LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned.