

June 7, 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, June 7, 2010 at 6:30 pm.  
Minutes on tape.

Present were Mayor Edward Lemon, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams, Sr. and Council Members W.C. Black, Ben Duncan, J.T. Atkinson, 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, Parks and Recreation Director Emily Randall and Community Development and Tourism Director 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.

Mayor Lemon stated that the agenda needs to be amended as follows; add 6a-Executive Session concerning Employee Policy; 7a-Approval of amendment to sick leave policy; and 7b-Approval of Adoption of Workers' Compensation Policy. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

**Public Comments:**

Rhonda McElveen updated Council on court schedule. Ms. McElveen stated that they have gone live on CMS.

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2010 special called Barnwell City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

Discussion of the England Enterprises Inspection Services Proposal – Administrator Zawacki explained a proposal from England Enterprises that was given to Council. Administrator Zawacki stated that this was the first proposal that the City has received and is for information only so Council can review how other municipalities of our size are handling the building inspection problem. An official notice for proposals for services will be in the paper this Wednesday.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 2010-2 Amending Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-225 Schedule of Permit Fees – Administrator Zawacki explained that as the city moves forward looking at the building inspection issues, the fees for these services also have to be adjusted. This ordinance changes the schedule of fees. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the ordinance by Title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

Administrator Zawacki read the ordinance by Title only. Councilman Pattillo made a motion to accept the first reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams 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.

Mayor Lemon stated that he recommends a separate policy for elected officials and appointed officials in as much as they be allowed to use the City's health insurance as long as they reimburse the City for the City's cost for the insurance. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve this policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson and unanimously approved. A copy of the policy is attached.

Approval of amended Policy on Health Insurance for retirees –Administrator Zawacki explained the amendment to the Policy on Health Insurance for retirees. Effective 7-1-2010 current city retirees and employees hired by 12-31-1989 will remain on the current policy. Employees hired after 12-31-89, elected officials, and appointed officials will not be eligible for health insurance assistance from the City. Also the required minimum number of years of continuous full time employment for eligibility is 28 years for South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) and 25 years for the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS). Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved. A copy of the policy is attached.

Amendment to Sick Leave Policy – Councilman Walling made a motion to amend the sick leave policy by deleting the word "non-occupational" from the sentence "Sick leave is paid when an employee is excused from work due to his own non-occupational disability" in the current policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

Approval of Adoption of Workers' Compensation Policy – Administrator Zawacki explained that the Workers' Compensation Policy discussed at the March meeting was not officially voted on. This policy allows the employee two choices if he is out on workers' compensation. Since workers' compensation only pays 66 2/3% of the employee's salary, the employee has the right to use his available leave which would give him 100% of his salary until his leave is used up and then he would go on workers' compensation. If the worker does not want to use his leave, he would go immediately to workers' compensation. Councilman Atkinson made a motion to approve the adoption of the Workers' Compensation Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved. A copy of the policy is attached.

### **Administrator's Update**

- Updated Council on the Main Street and Galilee Rd. Force Main project. It looks like completion will be several weeks ahead of schedule.
- Stated that the economy is having an impact on softball and baseball tournaments this year. One tournament was cancelled, a second tournament was cancelled due to the death of the tournament director, and a third tournament only had 4 teams out of 9 scheduled teams show up. This is happening all over the state not just Barnwell.
- Stated that insurance sign ups with the new carrier went well and the switch over to Blue Choice insurance will be July 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Stated that the preparation of the 2011 budget has begun. He has asked all department heads to provide him with their proposed capital lists and any special items that they see coming up. Due to the fact that revenues for the last two quarters come in June and August, he has placed restrictions on spending and hiring for the rest of the fiscal year.

-Updated Council on City Hall Project. We are still waiting on the last change order from Query Pritchard. The original change order was sent back due to several mistakes. Administrator Zawacki stated that hopefully we will close out this project within the next eight weeks.

-Informed Council about a request from Mr. Bennie Wiggins for Council to look over an insurance claim that was denied by the City's insurance company. Mr. Wiggins had a problem when there was a sewer backup on Ninth St. He filed a claim with the City's insurance company for reimbursement of expenses. After a thorough investigation, the insurance adjustor sent Mr. Wiggins a letter stating that they found no fault or liability with the City and that they regret there would be no payment on the claim. Mr. Wiggins asked that Administrator Zawacki bring it to Council for them to look at. Mayor Lemon stated that Council has to look out for the resources of the City and that is why the City has insurance. In a situation like this, unfortunately, the problem is between Mr. Wiggins and the insurance company not Mr. Wiggins and the City.

-Stated that there was a major irrigation water line break at Lemon Park and he wanted to let Council know that the Water and Recreation Departments did an outstanding job of working together to solve and fix the problem.

-Administrator Zawacki stated that we have an employee going out on leave to have major surgery and we will be hiring a temporary employee to work while that employee is out.

## **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 Randall explained to Council the reasons the number of tournaments was down for Lemon Park. The City is looking at hosting its own tournaments.

-Director Randall informed Council on several incidents at Lemon Park that required the Police to be called in.

-Director Randall stated that there will be a track meet at Lemon Park on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated that there needs to be someone at Lemon Park to welcome the people to Barnwell for the Track and Field Meet.

-Director Randall stated that the Summer Camp Program is under way. There were 26 kids the first week and 32 kids the second week.

Police- Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Duncan. Councilman Duncan asked about copper theft from air conditioner units. Chief Gantt stated that there have been a couple of incidents.

Fire- Councilmen Walling and Pattillo. Chief Dicks stated that there will be some staff going to Myrtle Beach for the State Fireman's Association Conference.

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

Building and Planning-Councilmen Atkinson and Black. Councilman Atkinson stated that in response to the complaints about the handicap parking at Lemon Park, they have made a drawing and Administrator Zawacki is in the process of getting the price for the project.

Community Development & Tourism- Director Lynn Cox.

-Director Cox stated that "Third Thursday" for May started out slow but hopes to see a bigger crowd in June. There will be music, lemonade for sale, water Olympic games for kids, and free seminars at the library. Stores will be open and may have some June specials.

- Director Cox stated that the Family Fun Fest will be July 3rd at Veterans Park beginning at 5pm. There will be games, food and the Fort Gordon Military Band will play at 7:30 and fireworks at 9:15pm.

-Director Cox stated that our official Census participation has come to an end. All title 13 information and records have been destroyed. As of today, the national rate of participation is 72%, South Carolina is at 73% and the City of Barnwell is at 73%.

-Director Cox discussed the report on the Wayfinding Plan. Mayor Lemon asked Director Cox if she is moving toward coming up with a plan. Director Cox stated that the first step is needs analysis, which she has already done. The next step would be getting a committee together to start looking at the needs analysis and deciding which signs need to come down and looking at what type of signs we want to put up and where and then we would start looking for Grants. Mayor Lemon told Director Cox to go ahead and get a committee together.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.