

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
February 1, 2021 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

REGULAR SESSION

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Alicia Davis, Billy Dozier, Peggy Kinlaw, James Moody, and Robert Pattillo

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Chief of Police Brian Johnson

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Councilmember Pattillo led in prayer.

Mayor Rivera announced that thanks to the help of Senator Hutto who put him in touch with Mr. Quenton Tompkins with MUSC Government Relations, there will be a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for residents of Barnwell County. This is part of MUSC's Rural Initiative and Barnwell will be one of the first counties to participate. The clinic will be held February 10th and 300 to 400 shots will be available to persons 70 and over by appointment only.

POLICE OFFICER'S OATH OF OFFICE

City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the Oath of Office to Police Officers Kuk Choe, James Mitchell, Dakota Nicholson, and Jacqueline Washington.

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SOUTHEASTERN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Ms. Beth Overton provided council with information on a new program they have that will help remove some of the blight in our communities. Southeastern Housing is a nonprofit and have received a grant that will help with the acquisition of the properties and administrative expenses. Southeastern Housing will provide the capital for the redevelopment. They will purchase blighted properties with clear titles from the property owners and deconstruct them to salvage and reuse as much materials as possible. They will then redevelop the land into single family home ownership units, single family home rental units, or duplex rental units. The redevelopment will be a slow process since they are using their own capital. They would like to partner with the municipalities. They would like the municipalities to help identify the properties and the owners. She already has a list of properties in Barnwell that was provided by City Administrator Lynn McEwen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Al Jenkins with Senator Tim Scott's office had come by introduce himself to the new Councilmembers. He stated that Senator Scott's office is working together with SRNS on their new employment opportunities as well as with SCA and Senator Hutto on the State's settlement for the SRS lawsuit.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-02; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROCUREMENT CODE OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL CODE

Administrator McEwen explained that this is an addition to the Procurement Code under professionals to include various construction contracts. This will allow the City to contract with them directly and cut out the middleman to help save money. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion that Ordinance 2021-02 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROCUREMENT CODE OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL CODE" be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Dozier made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2021-02. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier) – Philip Stanley has been riding with the sanitation company to get an accurate count of services being provided.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – No Report

Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – Police Chief Brian Johnson reported that Officer Coach has left the City and Brian Owens has been named the new department captain. The department is fully staffed. Three of the newly hired officers are uncertified.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmembers Dozier and Moody) – Council was provided with a report of activities since the last meeting.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Davis and Kinlaw) – McGregor & Company would start field work on the FYE 9-30-20 audit this week.

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Dozier and Kinlaw) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- The sitework is continuing at Fuller Park. There will be a meeting next week with playground/splash pad company to discuss placement of electrical and plumbing.
- The plat and appraisal for the well project have been given to the County attorney. County Council placed the final reading at a special council meeting on February 18th. AECOM is already working on preparing the DHEC permit package and this will be submitted when the deed is completed.
- MADM will be held next Monday, weather permitting, with pickup along the four lanes in front of Walmart. The City has received a \$3,687 grant from Palmetto Pride to purchase trash receptacles for Fuller Park.
- The Planning Commission and LSGOG will meet via Zoom on February 22nd to finalize the Comprehensive Plan. Council should have the updated plan by March and the ordinance should be ready for the April meeting.
- Chief Dicks and I would like to set up a meeting with the building committee to go over the RFQ for the fire station renovations.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION- INTERVIEW FOR EMPLOYMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pattillo and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

Councilmember Dozier made a motion to make an offer to Keith Parks for Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody. The motion passed 6 to 1, with Mayor Pro Tem Williams voting against the motion.

ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer