

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

**REGULAR SESSION**

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Pro Tem Williams presiding.

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Marcus 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 Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Fire Chief Tony Dicks

The news media was notified but none were present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ben Kinlaw – Mr. Kinlaw spoke to Council about the amount of litter in the City. He is the Chair of the Service Committee for Barnwell County Council and participates in the City's Make a Difference Monday program. He encouraged City Council members to participate in the Make a Difference Monday program. Mr. Kinlaw also stated that the County has an Ordinance that states that political signs must be picked up within two weeks. He stated that he picked up political signs during the trash pickup.

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### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT SCHOLARS**

The following students were recognized for April: Kori Tharin, Genesis Walker, Bayleigh Bowers, Marcus Robinson Jr., and Jackson Lehman

### **BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD**

The following businesses were recognized for April: Forever Young Clothing, Anderson Oil Company, and Wangz on Main

### **PRESENTATION OF CITY OF BARNWELL FY 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT MCGREGOR AND COMPANY**

Mr. Jim McGuire of McGregor & Company presented the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 financial statements. He referred to the independent auditor's report and informed Council that there were no findings. The auditor's report presented a clean opinion, they found the financial statements were presently fairly in all material respects. He explained the Management's Discussion and Analysis section and recommended that Council read this section for an overview of the financial activities for the year. He then reviewed the various sections of the statements with Council. The General Fund had an increase in fund balance of \$13,256. The Water & Sewer Fund had an increase in net position of \$119,381. The net position in the Water and Sewer Fund includes deductions for depreciation and pension expenses. There were no questions. Mayor Rivera thanked Mr. McGuire.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2021 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2021 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 special called scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

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**READING OF THE PROCLAMATION 2021-01 DONATE LIFE MONTH**

Administrator McEwen read the proclamation declaring the month of April as Donate Life Month.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-02 RECOGNIZING  
APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Pattillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dozier and unanimously approved.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-05 TO REPEAL THE EMERGENCY MASK  
MANDATE ORDINANCE 2021-04**

Councilmember Moody made a motion that Ordinance 2021-05 To Repeal the Emergency Mask Mandate 2021-04 be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2021-05. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen stated that it would be better to have a second reading on the Ordinance. A special called meeting will be scheduled for the second reading.

**INFORMATION ONLY; THE CITY OF BARNWELL PLANNING COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION TO BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE UPDATED  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Administrator McEwen stated that the Planning Commission presented Council with the resolution to adopt the updated comprehensive plan. There will be a public hearing scheduled for the May Council meeting. The first reading will take place at that time. Any changes or suggestions that Council has needs to be brought forth at this time. Administrator McEwen thanked the Planning Commission and LSCOG for all their work.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – Administrator McEwen gave an update on the RIA New Well Project. The deed for the property has been recorded and

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the DHEC permit is expected by early June. Bid packages will go out soon after and bid openings by the end of July.

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

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Councilman Moody read a report updating Council on recent and upcoming events. Administrator McEwen stated that opening day for the Baseball/Softball season will be April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Police (Councilmembers Moody, and Davis) – Plans to hire a replacement officer for one who is leaving this month have already been made and we are working on interviews for the administration position. Administrator McEwen and HR have begun looking over applications for the Chief of Police position and will be getting those to the police committee.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmen Moody, and Dozier) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks stated that the Fire Department will be assisting Denmark Tech with an OSHA certification class. We should know something by Wednesday afternoon on the State V Safe program Grant application. Calls were up in March.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis) – We have been working through some issues at Fuller Park to make sure we have a good even area for the playground and splashpad. You should see even more happening this week into next week with the Splash Pad and playground area. We may not have restrooms for a month or more, so we may have to open without them.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- I have sent some preliminary information to Senator Hutto's office but will be working towards a final request narrative this week to explain our needs.
- Make a Difference Monday will be held next Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. We also have one more scheduled Saturday as part of the Great American Clean Up. This will be held Saturday, April 24 from 7:30-11:30. We need volunteers to come out and be a part of this clean up. She thanked the volunteers who came out for the last cleanup. Mayor Rivera stated that his Boyz to Men group and travel basketball team have adopted the highway going toward Blackville as part of the cleanup. Councilmember Davis said her district was also going to help with the cleanup.
- One of the light poles on Main St was knocked down by a truck in a hit and run but was repaired by Dominion Energy.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS; CONTRACTURAL MATTERS**

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

Council returned to open session.

Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to accept the City Administrator's recommendation for Employee A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN**

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

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer