

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
June 7, 2021 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr.,
Alicia Davis, Peggy Kinlaw, and James Moody

Councilmembers Absent: Billy Dozier

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim
Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Director of Public Works
Philip Stanley, and Fire Chief Tony Dicks

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Williams led in prayer.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2021-07 “AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A
REFERENDUM AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER
THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MAY ISSUE TEMPORARY
PERMITS FOR THE SUNDAY SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-
PREMISES AND OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION IN THE CITY OF BARNWELL”**

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rivera adjourned the public hearing.

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REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Daniel Streeter introduced himself to Council. He said he was from Atlanta and wanted to bring a drive-in theater to Barnwell. He is currently in the process of finalizing a location.

Ms. Phillis Rhodey asked Council to do something with the abandoned buildings on Allen St. and Pine St., put up do not litter signs on Calhoun St., and utilize the community centers on Calhoun St. Mayor Rivera said the City has initiatives to address litter and dilapidated properties. Administrator McEwen asked Ms. Rhodey to meet with her at a later date since some of the issues were on private property.

UPDATE FROM DENMARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE-MR. KENNETH CRAWFORD

Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Jr. from Denmark Technical College was unable to attend the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT SCHOLAR

Molly Wilson was recognized as the Student Scholar for June.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD

This item was postponed until next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2021, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2021, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

REQUEST FROM THE BARNWELL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TO HOLD A SECOND SATURDAY WALL STREET MARKET

Ms. Trish Gordon is a board member of the Barnwell Development Association. They are a nonprofit organization that has been trying to help businesses in the city, especially in the downtown area. They would like to run a small local vendor market on Wall St. on the 2nd Saturdays of the month between the spring and fall Sundial Festivals. SCDOT approval would be needed to close the street. Discussion followed. The BDA and the recreation committee will get together to try to coordinate efforts to bring events to the downtown area.

SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-06 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read Ordinance 2021-06 “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ENABLING ACT OF 1994” by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2021-06. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-07 A CALL FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION FOR A VOTE ON SUNDAY SALES OF ALCOHOL IN THE CITY LIMITS OF BARNWELL

Councilmember Moody made a motion to read Ordinance 2021-07 “AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MAY ISSUE TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR THE SUNDAY SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISES AND OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION IN THE CITY OF BARNWELL” by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and passed 4 to 1 with Mayor Pro Tem Williams voting against the motion. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the second and final reading of

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Ordinance 2021-07. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion passed 3 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Kinlaw voting against the motion.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-04 “A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM”

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Clerk & Treasurer Vargo explained that the City is already in an agreement until June 2022. The federal fiscal year ends September 30th and the agreement’s fiscal year ends next June 30th, so the resolution needs to be approved this year to remain in the consortium and allow the City Administrator to sign the agreement next year. Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to approve resolution 2021-04. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON WHETHER TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER THE 2020 CENSUS BLOCK RESULTS

Administrator McEwen explained that this did not have anything to do with Mr. Pattillo’s vacant seat. A special election is not needed to fill his seat because the general election is within 180 days of the date of his death. Municipalities must redistrict their voting districts to reflect population and demographics contained in the most recently released census. The 2020 census data will probably not be released before this year’s general election in November. It is up to Council to decide if they want to have the general election with the current districts or postpone the election until the new census data comes out and possibly changes the districts. Councilmember Moody made a motion to keep the election as planned and not postpone it. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Williams) – Mayor Rivera appointed Councilmen Moody to the Water and Sewer Committee. Director of Public Works Philip Stanley informed Council that we received DHEC approval to operate the new chlorine system at the WWTP and will no longer be using chlorine gas. His departments are assisting Parks and Recreation with the work at Fuller Park including tree removal, restrooms, and parking lot.

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 provided by Director Keith Parks updating Council on recent and upcoming events including the State Tournament at the LPSC.

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Police (Councilmembers Moody, and Davis) – No Report

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmen Moody, and Dozier) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council gave a report for activity during the month of May 2021. Volunteer participation has picked up. The vacant position in his department has been filled.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis) – Administrator McEwen gave an update on the progress at Fuller Park for the splash pad and restrooms.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Work is continuing at Fuller Park. The playground is almost complete and the splashpad sidewalk was poured today. Testing for water and electrical will be done next week. We will clean up the area and prepare for sod, rock, and sidewalks. The restrooms will be coming in June. We will also begin working on the expansion of the parking lot.
- Make a Difference Monday will be held next Monday, June 14th, from 4-5 pm, weather permitting. Clean up will continue on Clinton St.
- Reminder of the June 25th Independence Day Celebration at Veteran's Park, from 6-9:30 pm. We are partnering with the Barnwell Development Association to provide food and entertainment. The City will be hosting the fireworks and an army band will be performing that evening
- Dominion Energy will begin cleaning up their power line right of ways.
- Budget workshops are scheduled for June 9th and 10th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS; CONTRACTURAL MATTERS

Councilmember Moody made a motion to enter executive session for contractual and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

Council returned to open session.

Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to move forward with negotiations on leasing land. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

Councilmember Davis made a motion to offer the position of Chief of Police to Candidate B upon the terms and conditions as recommended by the City Administrator. The motion was seconded mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

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ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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