

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
January 9, 2023 – 5:30PM**

**MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812**

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, James Moody, and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Public Works Director Philip Stanley, and PRT Director Kevin Roberts

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

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Mr. Nathan Catoe led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

**RESOLUTION 2023-01 A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF COUNCIL MEMBER
BRAD ALL**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved. Mayor Rivera read the resolution in memory of Brad All recognizing his honesty, sense of duty, gift of service, and love for his family. The resolution was presented to his wife.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ethan Batchler informed Council that he wanted to open a tattoo parlor in Barnwell. He previously worked at a shop in Denmark. He needs Council's approval to move forward. Administrator McEwen explained that according to SCDHEC, Council has to approve tattoo parlors in the city limits. This item will be placed on next month's agenda.

PRESENTATION FROM RETAIL STRATEGIES

Ms. Lacey Bacchus from Retail Strategies, a real estate and economic development consulting firm, explained that they work with municipalities and counties. They partnered with SCA last year. SCA received a USDA grant to provide a retail academy program for cities. Mayor Rivera, City Administrator Lynn McEwen, and Mr. Bob Snead with the Chamber attended the program. Retail dollars are leaving the area every year. Retail Strategies will put together a strategy to recruit new businesses and reclaim those dollars. They want to form a partnership with Barnwell County, Barnwell City, Blackville, Williston, and the Barnwell EDC. The total contract price would be \$40,000 per year. The City of Barnwell's share would be \$5,000. Ms. McEwen said that the money would come from savings this year, since this was not in the budget. The Mayor asked if all of the other entities have agreed to this. Mr. Stead said that they have had talks with everyone, and this will be presented to each respective council. Councilman Still asked what happens if the City of Barnwell agrees but some of the other entities do not. Ms. Bacchus said that if all or some of the entities did not participate, they would look at different levels of a partnership that only included Barnwell City.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022, REGULAR
SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-1
AMENDING THE ZONING OF LOTS BETWEEN MAIN AND ALLEN STREETS
FROM R-12 TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL**

Councilmember Still made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-2
AMENDING THE ZONING OF A LOT ON CHARLES STREET FROM R-15 TO
INDUSTRIAL**

Councilmember Still made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-2. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-3
AMENDING THE ZONING OF A LOT BETWEEN CALHOUN STREET AND
MARLBORO AVE FROM R-15 TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-3. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-4
AMENDING THE ZONING OF A LOT ON MAIN STREET FROM HIGHWAY
COMMERCIAL TO R-12**

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-4. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO UTILIZE UP TO \$5,000 FROM SAVINGS TO HAVE RETAIL
STRATEGIES PERFORM THE WORK IN RETAIL RECRUITMENT FOR THE FIRST
YEAR**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve using up to \$5,000 from savings to have Retail Strategies perform work in retail recruitment for one year. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

OVERVIEW OF BENCHMARK REPORT ON 2020 CENSUS

City Administrator McEwen provided Council with the Benchmark Reports provided by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) for redistricting based on the 2020 Census. Ms. McEwen said the General Election will be held this November. This creates a deadline to get the updated map approved. August 1, 2023 will be the opening day for filing as a candidate for the November election. The County Election Commission Director has stated that they need a minimum of two months prior to August 1st to make any necessary changes. Therefore, the map will need to be finalized and approved by the end of May. This will require two readings of an ordinance and a public hearing. The RFA said that the goal is to have a target population of 775 in each district. They have provided recommendations on how to accomplish this and how to adopt any changes. A special called meeting was planned for January 23, 2023, at 4:00 to discuss this information.

UPDATE TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mayor Rivera updated the following committees:

Water & Sewer-Councilmember Moody and Mayor ProTem Kinlaw

Police-Councilmembers Davis and Moody

Parks, Recreation, and Tourism- Councilmembers Still and Moody

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw & Councilmember Ron Still) –No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Ron Still & Jimbo Moody)-Directory Kevin Roberts informed Council that he currently has 14 teams for basketball. Playground renovations are ongoing at Lemon Park. The Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held February 10th and the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 1st.

Police (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Alicia Davis) – Administrator McEwen read a report about monthly activity.

Fire (Councilmember Ryan Bragg & Ron Still and Mayor Rivera) – No Report

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Ryan Bragg and Alicia Davis) – Council was given a letter from McGregor & Company. They will begin the audit of the September 30, 2022 financial statements.

Building and Planning (Councilmember Ron Still & Ryan Bragg) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- The Special Election for Council District #5 will be held March 21, 2023. Filing will begin January 23rd at noon and close February 3rd at noon.
- SCDHEC permits for the well project have been approved and the project should be moving forward.
- Wi-Fi and camera projects are scheduled for final installation this week.
- We have started to take applications for additional Veteran's banners. The form is online.
- Provided Council with a copy of the letter sent to property owners for the Blight Elimination Program. There will be a meeting this Thursday with interested property parties to go over the grant application and any questions the property owners may have.
- I am working on an application to SC Department of Commerce for a community competition award and possible grant funds. It will be based on the completed Fuller Park Improvements Project.
- Provided possible dates for workshops for planning sessions for Council and Department Heads.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PRE-LITIGATION NEGOTIATIONS-SOUTHERN REALTY

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

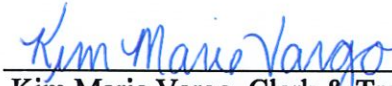
Council returned to open session.

Councilmember Still made a motion to accept the Administrator's recommendation pertaining to Claim A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Still made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer