

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
April 3, 2023 – 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 Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Ryan Bragg, Louis Claytor, 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, Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, and PRT Director Kevin Roberts

Ms. Alexandra Whitbeck of the People Sentinel was also present.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2023-7 UPDATING DISTRICT VOTING LINES
FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL**

Mayor Rivera opened the public hearing. No one spoke on the issue. Councilmember Still made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Councilmember Davis made a motion to accept the certification of election results for the March 21,2023 special election. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved. Louis T. Claytor III was the winner for City Council District #5.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS CLAYTOR TO COMPLETE THE VACANT AND UNEXPIRED SEAT FOR DISCTRICT #5

City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to Councilmember Claytor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Wanda Highsmith asked about viewing the maps for redistricting. They have been on display in City Hall for the public to view. She wants the redistricting process to be fair.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2023, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2023, COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023, Council workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023, COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Council workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2023, COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2023, Council workshop. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2023, COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023, Council workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-2, A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 Recognizing April 2023 as Fair Housing Month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-3, A RESOLUTION PLEDGING
TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF BARNWELL**

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Barnwell . The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council invited the audience to stand and recite the civility pledge with them.

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-5 “AN
ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISED ZONING ORDINANCE AND OFFICIAL
ZONING MAP FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO
IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE
SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE ENABLING ACT
OF 1994”**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw 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 Claytor made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-5. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-6 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL REVENUE SERVICES; TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE LOCAL REVENUE SERVICE PROGRAMS; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw 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 Still made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-6. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-7, “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SIX SINGLE DISTRICT REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SUCH PLAN PROVIDING FOR A COUNCIL MEMBER TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH DISTRICT”

Councilmember Still 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. Mayor Rivera said he wanted Council to consider starting from scratch and going back to the roundtable and have everyone discuss this. Councilmember Davis agreed and said she wanted to look at the lines again. Councilmember Still said Council has already had several meetings. Discussion followed. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-7. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. The motion passed 5 to 2 with Mayor Rivera and Councilmember Davis voting against the motion.

APPROVAL OF UTILIZING UP TO \$15,000 FROM SAVINGS, IF NECESSARY, DURING THIS YEAR’S BUDGET TO REPAIR THE LADDER TRUCK AND PUT IT BACK INTO SERVICE

Councilmember Still made a motion to use up to \$15,000 from savings to repair the ladder truck and put it back into service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL TO UTILIZE UP TO \$15,000 FROM LEFT OVER ARPA FUNDS FROM THE ALLOTTED FUNDING TO THE FOUR POLICE VEHICLES TO UPFIT WITH COMPUTERS/PRINTERS AS WELL AS AN ONGOING COST OF UP TO \$2,300 A YEAR FOR INTERNET SERVICE

Councilmember Moody made a motion to use up to \$15,000 of leftover ARPA funds allotted to the police department for vehicles to upfit the vehicles with computers/printers as well as on ongoing cost of up to \$2,300 a year for internet service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR “TEAM UP FOR THE BLACKTOP”

Administrator McEwen and PRT Director Kevin Roberts had talked to BJ Jordan with State Farm about the different initiatives to revitalize the basketball courts at Fuller Park. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the proposal for “Team Up for the Blacktop”. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved. Councilmember Moody stated that BJ Jordan has been a tremendous help to the City.

APPROVAL OF UNDATED RETIREE INSURANCE POLICY

Administrator McEwen said that the change of going to PEBA has greatly impacted the retirees due to the increased cost for retiree insurance. The old retiree insurance was based on age and had lower premiums. PEBA uses one premium for all retirees. She and Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo met with the Finance Committee to request additional assistance for the retirees. Ms. Vargo stated that the City will still be saving money with PEBA even with the increase to help retirees. The finance committee recommended an increase in monthly assistance to retiree premiums-retirees from \$200 a month to \$400 and surviving spouses from \$0 a month to \$250. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the updated retiree insurance policy. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Still) – Mosquito spraying will begin on April 11th. Citizens can go to the City website and find the dates and times their zones will be sprayed for mosquitoes.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts said the Easter egg hunt was a success. An AED device will be installed at Lemon Park. They are working on the baseball fields at Lemon Park. The new storage building for the football equipment will be delivered tomorrow. Working on signs for the parks that have 911 information. Spring Fling will be held at Fuller Park on Saturday, April 29th, at 5pm.

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Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – Council was provided with a written report on activity during the month.

Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still and Mayor Rivera) – Council was provided with a written report on activity during the month.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – Clerk & Treasurer Vargo informed Council that the auditors are still waiting for the State to release the necessary pension information to complete the FYE September 30, 2022 financial statements.

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Bragg and Still) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Harper Construction will be tying the Joey Zorn well into the city line.

The City has received a FOIA request from The People Sentinel on redistricting.

New veteran banner orders will be placed.

She is still working on the spreadsheets from the Council workshops.

New Council photos will be taken immediately before the next meeting.

There will be a hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals on the Jackson St property on Thursday, April 13th, at 5pm at City Hall.

Thanked the City public works and recreation departments for their work in cleaning up the City. The City-wide cleanup was held last Saturday with 7 volunteers. Gave an update on the amount of trash picked up.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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