

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
June 5, 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 Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, James Moody, and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Ryan Bragg

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.

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments

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PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL FY 2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Mr. Jim McGuire of CC McGregor & Company provided an overview of the 2022 FY audit. Councilmember Still made a motion to accept the audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-8, “AN ORDINANCE TO REPLACE AND REPEAL CHAPTER FOUR, ARTICLE II, DOGS WITH AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL AND CARE”

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 & final reading of Ordinance 2023-8. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANT FOR THE \$50,000 AWARD FROM THE SC GREAT COMMUNITY GRANT COMPETITION

Administrator McEwen informed council that she had worked on this with PR&T Director Roberts. The best use for this application for the funding is another shelter at Fuller Park. Councilmember Still asked about the type of shelter. Once the project is approved, we will see what we can build. Any overrun costs will be covered by the hospitality tax. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING THE GRANT AWARD FOR THE WATER TANK AND SEWER UPGRADES

Administrator McEwen informed council that the tank will be placed on the property off of Dunbarton Blvd. that was deeded over to the city by the BC EDC. Funds will be used for this project include the RIA state grant, SCIIP funds and the capital projects sales tax. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the grant award. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING THE GRANT AWARD FOR THE WASTEWATER EXPANSION PROJECT AND THE MOU WITH THE COUNTY AND SCA

Administrator McEwen stated that funding for this project will come from the SCIIP funds and the county. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the grant award. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RETURNING THE RAILROAD CROSSING SIGN BACK TO THE RIDGEWAY FAMILY

Councilmember Still explained that a member of the Ridgeway family had contacted him to request the railroad crossing sign if the city had no use for it. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve to give back the railroad crossing sign with the option of first refusal if the family were to relinquish it in the future. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Rivera stated that with all committees, he should be invited to any meetings held.

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

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Still) – Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw stated that the paperwork has finally been signed to have Woodcrest be paved. Councilmember Still wanted to remind citizens about yard debris. This is the time of year when a lot of things are cut and put alongside of the road for pick up. There are things that they will not pick up such as grills and other metals, so the public needs to be reminded that they will not pick up these things. Also, there are certain sizes and limits of debris of the branches before the service will pick up. Check our website for those requirements. Mayor Rivera wants to set up a meeting with SCDNR about cleaning up the lake.

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Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts reminded everyone that the Independence Day Celebration will be on Friday, June 30 at Veteran’s Park. Kevin also recently met the gentleman who last flew the helicopter that is out there. It was interesting to talk with him. There will be vendors with food and music by DJ Gary Brantley. Fall sports registration has started off well. He also gave accolades to his crews for doing great job in the parks.

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

Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still) – Council was provided with a written report from last month and this month.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – Mayor Rivera brought up an issue with some of the dollars spent in the budget. There has been a lot spent on attorney’s fees.

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor and Still) – Mr. Claytor brought up the possibility of selling some land (35-40 feet) of the city’s property to Ham Dicks behind his area that he has been using per the former council’s permission. Councilmembers Still and Claytor will get more information.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Blight Program – 5 properties have been approved to come down under the blight program. The first was on Center St, this last week (see photos attached). Second is on Jefferson st., two more are on Marlboro Ave, another is on the corner on Calhoun and Sam Sts. We are still working on other properties...some we have not heard back from the owners, on some, one owner wants to tear it down but others in the family are not in agreement. Southeastern is talking with other property owners that they may be able to get the owners to either tear them down or to renovate them. It is going slow, but they are still working on them diligently. I am working another angle to address the ones we are not getting anywhere with.
- Joey Zorn Well Project – The well is completed and we are now just working on paperwork and closeout documents. We should have full control of everything by the end of this month. Last payments should be in by early July. I will have the full amount paid by the city and grant once all is complete.
- We have almost finished here to the upgrades of the City Council room. We are still working on one last bit to help us with streaming to the internet. That will hopefully be finished by the end of this week.

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- Fire Station – trees have been taken down from the property. Some of that debris will be moved out to the wwtp/street shop for continued break down, for either reuse or for burning. Site work will begin within the next month or so. We are waiting on AT&T to coordinate the work to move the cross box that they still have on the property. This was an added expense of about \$30,000. The metal (main) building has been ordered. Site work will begin within the next month.
- There will be a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, June 12 at 6 pm on several zoning map amendment requests. Amendments that are recommended by the Commission will be brought to Council next month.
- City Council Budget workshop - Planned for June 26 and 27. Beginning at 5 pm. I need to know today if those dates and time will not work.
- MASC Annual Meeting – There are forms for each council member to fill out for the annual meeting. Barnwell was at the first of the line last year but will not be able to sign up until the last day available this year. With that being the case, please make sure you put for the housing reservations, several options and in priority order. These need to be sent back to Kim no later than this Friday, June 9 so that she has all the information before doing all the registration (which must be done by our offices).

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator

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