

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
August 7, 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, Ryan Bragg and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2023-13 TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Mayor River opened the public hearing There were no public comments. Councilmember Moody made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

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APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Barbara Christian wanted to address comments from the last meeting regarding the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Vargo stated that the position was still in the budget at a cost of approximately \$74,000 for salary and benefits and Mayor Rivera believes that animal control duties could be handled by other officers. Ms. Christian said that all officers handling animal control duties has not worked, and you cannot put a price on safety.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE CHIEF PHILLIP DELK AND DEPUTY CHIEF SCOTTY HANKINS

Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to Fire Chief Phillip Delk and Deputy Fire Chief Scotty Hankins.

PRESENTATION BY DATAMAX FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Mr. Bobby Monroe, Director of Sales with HDL Companies (formerly DataMax), explained to Council that his company provides a service to help collect business licenses for companies doing business in the City that the City is not aware of. They do not go after the brick-and-mortar businesses but outside vendors that these businesses deal with. They contact these businesses and bill them for 3 years of back licenses. The City collects the money. HDL fees are 50% of what the City collects for a rolling 2 years. This was taken as information only.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 10 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2023, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

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SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-9, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ALONG JACKSON STREET FROM R-15 AND INDUSTRIAL 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 Claytor made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-9. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved. This ordinance changes Tax Map Parcel 073-11-04-015 which is zoned R-15 and Tax Map Parcel 073-10-02-002 which is zoned Industrial to Neighborhood Commercial.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-10 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 24, ARTICLE III REFUSE SERVICE CHARGES, TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES”

Councilmember Still made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor 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 2023-10. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-11 “AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE WATER RATES”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg 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 2023-11. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-12 “AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE SEWER RATES”

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 Claytor made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-12. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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**SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-13 “TO RAISE REVENUE
AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024”**

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 Bragg made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-13. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SALE OF CITY PROPERTY TO HAM DICKS

The building and planning committee met with Mr. Dicks where they walked the property in question. Public Works Director Philip Stanley gave them information from DHEC on the property that could not be sold due to the WWTP. Mr. Dicks is only interested in a small strip of land, approximately 3 or 4 acres, to build a new building. A survey of the property would give everyone a better understanding of the exact location of the property and also its location to the animal shelter. Discussion followed. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to allow Mr. Dicks to have a preliminary survey done of the City property at his own expense. The motion was seconded Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO REAPPLY FOR THE SC GREAT COMMUNITY COMPETITION
GRANT**

Administrator McEwen wants to resubmit a new project description for the \$50,000 grant. The original idea was to use these funds toward a new pavilion/amphitheater. A lot more planning needs to go into this project including cost, parking issues, grant funding, etc. In the meantime, this \$50,000 grant can assist the City in adding another pavilion in a different location for more smaller family gatherings while still adding to the amenities at the park. Councilmember Still said that he wanted something that would bring in more people from surrounding areas and although the original amphitheater would cost more, the \$50,000 would be a start. Mayor Rivera said planning for the amphitheater should continue but another smaller pavilion was an immediate need. Discussion followed. Mayor Rivera made a motion to approve reapplying for the grant for building the smaller pavilion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion passed 4 to 3 with Councilmembers Claytor, Moody, and Still voting against the motion.

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COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

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

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts gave an update on fall sports registration. Start days are staggered with volleyball September 11th, tackle football September 12th, and flag football September 18th. Tackle football jerseys are being sponsored by B.J. Jordan State Farm. Additional sponsorships are being sought.

Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – Councilmember Moody read the written report on activity during the month.

Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still) – Councilmember Still read the written report on activity during the month.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – Mayor Rivera said he wanted to see if we could give a bigger Christmas bonus since there would be no raises this year. Administrator McEwen said we would have to look at the budget closely.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Blight Program – Properties on Dunbarton Blvd, Marlboro Ave, Bush St, and Dale St are being demolished.
- Joey Zorn Well Project – We received the final SCDHEC approval for the well and testing will be done August 15th.
- Fire Station – Silt fencing was put in place today. There have been delays due to an AT&T control box that has to be moved. We made this request to AT&T in May.
- Election – Election for Districts 2, 4, and 6 along with the Mayor seat will be in November. Filing for these seats will close on Tuesday, August 15th at noon. We have requested new registration cards for all voters since we had redistricting changes this year.

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ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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