

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
September 11, 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, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Public Works Director Philip Stanley, and Deputy Fire Chief Scotty Hankins

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

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

Mayor Rivera called the regular 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 Moody made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Councilman Ben Kinlaw addressed the council. He first requested a moment of silence for the 9/11 victims. There was a moment of silence. He then requested the City Council to consider a resolution in thanking Barbara Christian for the work that she has done for the last three years in providing the 9/11 memorial and event. He also provided the council with a recap of the Palmetto Pride Summit in Columbia last week, where he and Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw were the first to go in a very long time from Barnwell County. He said that the people there were amazed at how Barnwell County has been able to do things with only volunteers. A few weeks ago, they picked up 8.8 miles in Hilda. This weekend, September 16 is World Clean Up Day. He knows it is last-minute but offered for anyone to participate with them this weekend. He also mentioned the grants that are available to the county and to the municipalities for beautification.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Two Barnwell businesses were recognized during the business recognition of the meeting. Adam's Nursery and Gifts which has been at their Barnwell location for 20 years and is a family owned business. Davis Tax Consulting & Financial Services, LLC (owned and operated by Council Member Alicia Davis) was the second business recognized. "Davis Tax Consulting & Financial Services is committed to providing exceptional and professional tax and accounting services while maintaining the highest levels of integrity and professionalism while meeting the current and future needs of our clients."

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Katelynn Ryan is the student who was recognized this month. She is a Senior at BHS with a GPA of 3.72. She also attends Barnwell Career Center where she is the Sergeant of the Advanced Law Enforcement Class. She has served as a delegate to the 76th session of ALA Palmetto Girls State. She is a member of numerous academic clubs and a Varsity Cheerleader.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023, Regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION 2023-04, "A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION OF THE MULTIPLE AGENCIES RESPONDING TO THE CITY OF BARNWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH THE AUGUST 18, 2023, HAGOOD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH FIRE"

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION 2023-05, "A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE DIXIE YOUTH ANGELS SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS"

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION 2023-06, "A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO PROVIDE A LOCAL MATCH FOR THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND TO FOLLOW ITS PROCUREMENT POLICY WHEN SECURING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WITH GRANT FUNDS"

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL FOR THE WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR THE WASTEWATER REHABILITATION PROJECT ENGINEERING

Administrator McEwen had provided the council with the work order for \$409,562 for engineering. The City will be able to utilize up to 50% of the capital project's sales tax on the engineering costs for this project. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the work order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL TO DONATE THE BODY WORN 2 CAMERAS TO THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX

Chief Robinson was requested by the Town of Fairfax to possibly be provided the older Body Worn 2 cameras, which are no longer of any use to the city Police Department. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD THE HOSPITALITY GRANTS

Administrator McEwen had provided the request amounts from the Barnwell Development Association and the Sundial Festival Committee for marketing. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the reimbursable grant awards of \$2500 to the Sundial Festival Committee for marketing the festival and \$5000 to the Barnwell Development Association for marketing Barnwell businesses. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND ATTORNEY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PREPARING FOR A G.O. BOND TO COMPLETE THE FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the Administrator and the City Attorney to move forward with a request to potential lenders to fund a “not to exceed” \$1.2M General Obligation Bond to finish the funding of the Fire Department Building. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE HDL COMPANIES FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CITY BUSINESS LICENSES

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the city moving forward with the HDL companies to assist with transient and out-of-town business licenses (not brick and mortar in-town businesses). In discussion, Administrator McEwen also explained that the city will send the contract over to the MASC for verification that it covers all of the rules pertaining to these businesses. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF SURVEY AND PROPERTY REQUEST FROM HAM DICKS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There was some discussion on the map that was drawn and provided for the meeting. A full plat has not been provided to Council. Attorney Boulware spoke up and stated that a full plat must be completed. If that plat will be in conflict with the existing lease contract with the county on the animal pound, then the county will have to agree to any changes. Then we would ask for an appraisal of the property. We would then have to draw up a contract for the asking price for the property. Then an ordinance would be written up and approved with two readings for the land to be sold. Hammy Dicks spoke to the council on why he wanted the land. This was all taken as information only. No decision was made.

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 Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw mentioned that many of the streets in Woodcrest are being paved by the county.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director provided a written report for the council on recreation sports, tree trimming and 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 this month.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – No Report, Mayor Rivera wants the city to look into Impact Fees. More will be coming to the council on this. He also wants to start a Youth Council. More information needs to be gathered before beginning this.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Blight Program – Bush and Dale streets as well as a house on 4th street were taken down. Hopefully, the rest of the houses on Marlboro Ave will be coming down after they go through the heirs' process on the property. I am working on other properties, but some have already been contacted and others we can't get ahold of at all.
- Joey Zorn Well Project – There are several problems that had to be taken care of before we would take on ownership of the well. Chemical mixers are still broken, chemical feed pumps are not coming on when well is turned on, chlorine booster pump still has air feed-back problem. Once all the issues are taken care of and we have one final inspection, then we will take over the well.
- Fire Station – The pad is “finished” and now concrete footers are dug, rebar is going in and they are about to be poured. This month you will see concrete and underground utility piping being put in. The delivery of the building is set for Oct. 4th. We have been having meetings with Spratlin and the Fire Dept every other week, the project is on schedule.
- Marlboro Ave/Hwy 3 project is about to get underway. I am working with SCDOT on a piece of our property that they want to purchase and once that is settled on who will do what, I will be bringing that to the Council in an ordinance.

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- I attended the MASC Regional Advocacy meeting that was held last Wednesday. There is a virtual one scheduled for October if you want more information about it.
- Also, there is a Civility in Verbal Conflict training available through the MASC and SC School Boards Association being held on Thursday, October 19 in Columbia. Deadline to register is October 12. I will send more information about it in an email.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator

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