

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
February 5, 2024 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Still presiding.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ron Still and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, Wanda Highsmith, Peggy Kinlaw, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Interim Police Chief Robert Miller, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, New Police Chief Michael Butts, PR&T Director Kevin Roberts, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Councilmember Kinlaw led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Attorney Tom Boulware announced that Hammie Dicks would not be here at the meeting, so that he asked for his presentation to be removed from the agenda. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to delete agenda item 14 from the agenda, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved. Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to approve the

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amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL BUTTS

New Police Chief Michael Butts was sworn in by Attorney Tom Boulware. The council and audience welcomed Chief Butts as well as thanked Interim Chief Robert Miller for his service. Chief Butts will begin officially on February 21, 2024.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Councilmember Alicia Davis recognized Owens TV Repair. Mr. Thomas Owens was a small business owner in Barnwell for 49 years. He passed away recently, but his granddaughter, Madison Owens, her Aunt and her brother were there to receive this recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Toni Hutchinson of the Animal Shelter reported on events that they are planning to do in the community for outreach. They have received several grants to assist in these efforts. One particular event will be on March 2 at the SCA building from 10am-2pm. They will have a limited number of vaccines available (about 100). Vaccines for animals will be free with educational materials and there will be several different types available.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL TRAINING SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, special called City Council training session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 29, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-01 “AN ORDINANCE TO
AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO CONVEY TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF \$200.00 AND BY
GENERAL WARRANTY DEED OF CONVEYANCE THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON
THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE “A” AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND
DELIVERY OF A GENERAL WARRANTY DEED OF CONVEYANCE”**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to accept the second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2024-01: TO APPOINT ONE MEMBER TO THE 2024 CAPITAL
PROJECTS SALES TAX COMMISSION**

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to read the resolution in its entirety. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the resolution which again approves Jimbo Moody as the member the city appoints to the commission. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. In discussion, Councilmember Davis asked about the other people who were on the commission. Don Alexander and David Deering were brought up but no other names were known. The county has encouraged that none of the members of the commission be council members. The motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE ADDITIONAL EVENING CONCERT FOR THE SUNDIAL
FESTIVAL**

Mayor Still asked Amy Davis to come to the podium and explain what they plan to do. She stated that the evening will be a concert on the circle, with food trucks already in town. She still has the paperwork to send in for the road closures. She also stated that she would be talking with the sheriff's office and the new chief regarding the police assistance that may be needed. They will be hiring an off-duty officer for the over night. Administrator McEwen asked who the

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entertainment would be. Amy Davis said it would be a surprise, but that it is family friendly. Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the additional evening concert for the Sundial Festival. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AUDIT POLICY

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the First Amendment Audit Policy. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE BID FOR THE FIRE TRUCK

Administrator McEwen explained where we are with the fire truck bid and grant funding. The responsible bid came in at \$804,807 from All-Source Enterprises LLC (E-ONE) SAFE industries. The CDBG grant is for \$500,000, where \$20,000 pays for the administration from LSCOG. Administrator McEwen stated that paying \$325,000 is better than paying a full \$800,000 and if we dismiss the bid and the grant, we may be paying more later due to costs going up. Councilmember Claytor asked if we were locked in this price and Administrator McEwen said yes, once we accept it, they can not go back up on it. She also stated that it would be wise to take that \$325k in savings and earmark for this project. It will be close to 30-36 months before the truck actually comes in. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the bid from All-Source Enterprises LLC (E-ONE) Safe Industries for \$804,807 for the new fire truck. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED 504 PLAN AND THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Administrator McEwen explained that the 504 Plan needed to be updated as we need this in place for our grants. The plan had not been updated since 2015. The official members of the Grievance Procedure will be the members who are on the current Finance and Salary Committee (which has also historically been the Personnel Committee). Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the updated 504 Plan and the members of the Committee for the procedure. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

CAPITAL PROJECTS SALE TAX DISCUSSION

Administrator McEwen provided a list of items and projects that (through discussions with our Department Heads) were items that were needed. Mayor Still asked for the council members to look over these and think on them. We would be meeting more on this issue as the final list is required by April. Mayor Still stated that this is about the fairest tax there is, as it is taxed across

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the board. The Police Station and the splashpad at Fuller Park were paid for by this tax the first go round.

DISCUSSION OF AN ADHOC DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

This was for information only. Councilmember Myers wants to have this created. She says that when she has talked with developers that are looking to come here to build housing, they want to see more things happening in the downtown area. She wants to get a committee together to make sure downtown buildings are cleaned up, awnings are looking good or are removed, etc. There was long discussion about the committee development, the committee makeup and the duties of what they would be doing. Mayor Still finally asked Councilmember Myers to provide more information on the plan for this committee and we would put it back on the agenda for next month to vote upon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Davis) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley let council know that the water department employees will be doing some exams on the water meters around the city. Administrator McEwen made a statement about the current water/sewer engineering contract. The Water and Sewer Committee met in January about a new development with our engineering firm for the water and sewer projects. We have learned that almost all of the key employees of our long-time engineering firm have left (recruited from) AECOM and have gone to GHD. The committee requested Attorney Boulware to look into what it would take to move to the new firm. We have sent a letter to AECOM and have requested some clarifications on our contract. Once we have those answers, we may need a special called meeting to make the decision about our contract.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith) – No Report
Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw also mentioned that she is still attending the CTC meetings at the county level and that the section of Main St. out here in front is now on the list to be paved. She is just not sure when it will be done.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Myers & Highsmith) – PR&T Director Kevin Roberts announced that the Daddy Daughter Dance had to be cancelled. The numbers were too low (last year there were 181, this year 38) to be able to warrant the expense for such few participants. Hopefully we can try it next year. Basketball is going very well and we are participating with Allendale, Williston and Blackville.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – Interim Chief Robert Miller thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve Barnwell again. He also pleaded with council to support Chief Butts as he goes into this position and does what he needs to do to get the department back up and running. We have lost 3 more officers in the last month, so we are down to a skeleton crew. Mayor Still again thanked Chief Miller for his service to Barnwell.

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Fire (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave a report on December activity.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – Administrator McEwen reminded council of the Auditor’s letter in the packet to them. The audit is being worked on now.

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Highsmith) – Administrator McEwen updated the council on where the Fire Station is in the funding. She gave a summary of the ARPA funds which have now all been paid out. She went over the sheet on the Fire Station Funding and where we are at this point. She also went over the contingency tracker that Spratlin and Son is keeping up with as well as other costs that are associated with the low voltage wiring and other internal amenities that must be placed in the station during construction. The GO Bond should still cover everything we have at this point without dipping into savings.

ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

- DHEC – Sanitary Survey – Public Water System
The overall rating of NEED IMPROVEMENT was received. Although, I believe that this is a confusing rating. The city is rated on 6 different sections which include (1) Source Protection from Contamination, (2) Wellhead Piping, (3) Chemical Storage and Handling, (4) Disinfectant Residual, (5) Cross Connection Control, and (6) Flushing Program. Out of all six, five were rated Satisfactory. Only Disinfectant Residual was rated as Needs Improvement. But due to the fact that we had this one lower rating, they rate the entire program as Needs Improvement. I have the entire survey available here at City Hall if you have any questions. We will continue to improve on any substandard areas.
- I will be out of the office on February 20-21.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator

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