

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL

March 26, 2024 – 5:15 pm

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in a Special Called Meeting with Mayor Still presiding.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Myers said she had a request from the public to add a public comment section to the agenda. Mayor Still explained that this was a special called meeting for a specific purpose and asked if the comments pertained to this issue. Councilmember Myers said she did not know. Discussion followed. Councilmember Myers made a motion to amend the agenda to include public comments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion passed 4 to 2 with Mayor Still and Councilman Claytor voting against the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Debrah Coleman said she was at the last meeting when the General Obligation bond was discussed. As a taxpayer, she felt that three people should not have been able to decide on an issue that great and that it should have been done by referendum for the citizens to decide. She agreed a new fire station was needed but not one with six bays.

Ms. Urana Kush said that Barnwell did not need a state of the art fire station, especially at the taxpayer's expense.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2024

She thinks Barnwell would be served better to have downtown Barnwell and the communities look better than they do. She also thinks that there should be public comments at every meeting.


DISCUSSION OF THE CPST II PROJECT PROPOSALS

Administrator McEwen went over information given to the Council. She explained that the County required not just a list of wants but an application form for each project that includes descriptions and budgetary information. She provided a draft list based on information and priorities that she received from individual council members and her input on what was viable. She did not include a community building because at this point, she feels it is not a viable project because a location has not been determined and all funding has been allocated to other projects. Attorney Boulware asked Administrator McEwen to explain the steps in the process. She said first City Council has to approve their projects and priority. Then the City has to turn in applications to the CPST Commission by April 15th. She will make a presentation of the projects to the CPST Commission on April 18th. The Commission will approve projects in May and send them to the County. The County has to do an ordinance for the approved projects and send it to the Election Commission to be put as a referendum on the ballot in the November election. If the referendum passes the County will have funds available from a Pay Go Bond by next April or May. Council discussed the various projects on the list. Questions and opinions were given on paying off the GO bond, street sweeper, Blight Program, and community center as well as prioritizing the projects. This information will be used to finalize the projects to be presented at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2024