

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
April 1, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, Police Chief Michael Butts, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, and PR&T Director Kevin Roberts

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Myers said the posted agenda did not include two items that were on the draft agenda-committee appointments for the downtown revitalization committee and CPST discussion. She had been told these items would be discussed at a special called meeting on April 15th along with swearing in the new councilmember for District 1. She made a motion to add the downtown revitalization committee appointments and CPST discussion back to the agenda and swear in the newly elected councilmember for District 1 at the May meeting. Attorney Boulware

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addressed how an agenda can be amended after it has been posted. He said the items could be added to the agenda with a 2/3 vote and discussed but no final action could be taken. She said she still wanted to go forward with the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Myers said her concern was that a special called meeting limited public comment. The motion failed with a 3-3 vote with Councilmembers Davis, Highsmith, and Myers voting for the motion and Mayor Still, Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor voting against the motion. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

PRT Director Kevin Roberts introduced newly hired PRT employee Jimmy Ray.

POLICE RECOGNITIONS

Police Chief Michael Butts recognized the following employees:

Molly Curley promoted to Lance Corporal
Robert McGinnis promoted to Corporal
David Greene promoted to 1st Sergeant
Detective Lt DJ Boots 5 years of service
Support Specialist Heather Still 5 years of service

He also recognized the following volunteers:

Reverend Reginald Mixon-Chaplin
Robert Miller Sr-Assistant Chaplin

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Willis Jolly presented Council with some information from the 2006 Master Plan to revitalize downtown. He said owns 2.64 acres of property on Allen St. and would be happy to work with Council. He said he also received a certified letter from Administrator McEwen to clean up the property on Allen St. He agreed with the assessment and has complied to the best of his ability. He also requested letters of intent to enforce city ordinances with special interest for the old Bookworm property.

Mr. Stephen Hunter thanked Councilmember Myers for her correspondence. He questioned why there were so many special meetings, and they seem to include increases. He said we are not addressing things up front, it is always after the fact trying to put out fires. Council needs to ask administration to prepare them for what they need to make conscientious decisions.

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PRESENTATION/INFORMATION FROM HEALING PARTNERS

Ms. Pamela Sheppard McNight came before Council on behalf of Barnwell County Healing Partners. She is employed with Axis 1. Previously they did a Community Health Needs Assessment which is a systematic way that gives the opinions and attitudes of the community about health factors and outcomes. They are in the process of doing a new assessment. They have three health priorities- healthy living as it relates to chronic illness, access to care and providers, and behavioral health. She explained how the program works and their accomplishments. They are planning a festival in partnership with City PRT Director Keven Roberts that will include health and physical activities. This will take place at the Lemon Park Sports Complex on April 20th from 1:00 to 4:00. She asked that everyone fill out the Community Health Needs Assessment. She asked that Council consider choosing a representative to be a part of their meetings. They meet monthly on every third Tuesday from 10:00 am to noon. Councilmember Highsmith volunteered to be the City representative.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024, special called City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-03 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-55 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO ADD SECTION (a)(8) DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw 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 Highsmith made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-03. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH RESOLUTION 2024-03

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 Recognizing April 2024 as Fair Housing Month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD ON A COUNTY/CITY KILKENNY PARK KAYAK PROJECT

PRT Director Kevin Roberts gave an overview of the project. He has been working with Hilary Hindman of Barnwell County. They have been looking at a presentation from Rent!Fun. The company will put a steel cage with 4 10 ft kayaks, paddles, and life vests at a selected location. The City will provide Kilkenny Park as the place to store, rent, and launch the kayaks. The County would provide construction of a concrete pad to put the rental kayak unit on as well as construct a concrete ramp into Lake Edgar Brown. The initial investment of \$18,000 required by the company would be split equally between the City and County. There would be a 2 hour kayak rental at an approximate cost of \$20. The rental is all done through a phone app. No staff is involved. The company will come out twice a month to maintain the equipment. If anything is lost or damaged the company will replace it. They thought this would be a good recreational opportunity for residents of the city and county to use the lake if Council would like to pursue it. DNR has been contacted and is ok with the project. Discussion followed about liability, age restrictions, references. Councilmember Myers made a motion to approve moving forward with the project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MAKEUP

Administrator McEwen said the City has a 7 member Planning Commission. There are currently five members and two vacancies. It has been hard to fill the vacancies and Council may want to

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consider dropping the number of members from 7 to 5. This must be done by ordinance. The Board of Zoning Appeals has 5 members. There is currently one vacancy and there may be more due to retirements. She was waiting to hear back from some of them to see if they want to continue being on the board. She asked Council for any suggestion for new members. Councilmember Davis expressed her concern that the Board of Zoning Appeals did not have any diversity in their membership, and she had a couple of names she would like to put forward. Mayor Still said the City should consider dropping the number of Planning Commission members from 7 to 5. Councilmember Claytor agreed. Councilmember Davis suggested we wait until there is a new councilmember from District 1. Council agreed.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Davis) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Myers & Highsmith) – PR&T Director Kevin Roberts gave an update on recreational activities and current projects being worked on.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – Police Chief Michael Butts gave an update on monthly activity. He said they have conducted 7 interviews to fill vacancies. There have been numerous calls for shots fired around town in the past month and he is working on an overtime project with other agencies to help cut down on these calls.

Fire (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave a report on monthly activity. The ladder truck is out of service.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Highsmith) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

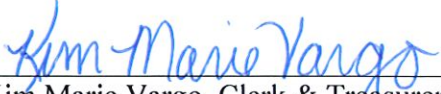
- Reminded Council that tomorrow there will be a special election for District 1.
- The bid opening for solid waste disposal is set for Friday, April 12th at 2:00 pm at City Hall.
- There will be a special called meeting on Monday, April 15th.
- There is an Earth Day Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, from 8:00 am until noon.
- Deadline for the veterans' banners is Friday, April 19th.
- We are looking at an early June move in for the fire station.

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ADJOURN

Councilmember Myers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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