

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL**

**June 3, 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, and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Ricky Dixon, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Alicia Davis

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, Police Chief Michael Butts, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, Public Works Director Philip Stanley, and PR&T Director Tommy Elkins Jr.

The press was notified but none were present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Adrian Crawford said he was the co-founder of High Altitude Drone Services (HADS). He is a FAA certified mastery drone pilot operator. He wants to bring drone technology to Barnwell County. HADS is an aerial photo and video business that brings a higher clarity of view from a high altitude. Mr. Crawford listed the types of services offered, including public safety. Having

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an active drone in the community decreases crime by 30%. It can also be useful for missing persons and tracking subjects of interest. He will meet with the Police Chief to offer his services.

Mr. Steve Brown said he lives at 40 Richardson St. Several years ago, the house across the street was rezoned from single family to multi family. DSS moved in individuals with mental and physical issues. They have had problems in the past with some of the occupants, but he has never complained. One of the current occupants has been creating problems and the police have been called several times. Last Saturday the police were called out three times. There was a physical altercation in the yard between this individual and the woman who works there. Mr. Brown felt threatened and called 911. He was told that the police were limited in what they could do, so they try to calm the individual down and then leave. Mr. Brown said he is tired of feeling threatened and wanted Council advice. Mayor Still asked Mr. Brown to speak with Police Chief Butts to see what could be done about the situation.

**RESOLUTION 2024-4 AND PRESENTATION TO THE FAMILY OF EUGENE  
"BUDDY" DARNELL**

The family could not attend the meeting tonight, so this item will be placed on next month's agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF GHD WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR THE WASTEWATER  
REHABILITATION (SCIIP) PROJECT**

Administrator McEwen presented the GHD work authorization for the Wastewater Rehabilitation SCIIP Project in the amount of \$377,401. She explained the work had already been approved for AECOM but since we switched engineering firms it has to be approved again. Also as stated with the first contract, there are currently not enough funds in the W&S savings so money may have to be moved around depending on how long the project takes. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the work authorization. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR SPECIAL SELLING EVENT “PETALS AND STARS” AT FULLER PARK**

Petals and Stars is a 501(c)3 organization that has requested to have an Entrepreneurial Event for kids under sixteen at Fuller Park. The youth make their items and then sell them. This was brought before Council for their approval since there is no selling at Fuller Park except for the Farmers Market. If approved, it will be held August 17<sup>th</sup>. They would also like the park rental fee waived. Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the event and waive the fee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. If any local youth are interested in participating in this event, they can call city hall for information.

**APPROVAL OF THE SRS BANNER REQUEST FOR 2025**

Administrator McEwen said that SRS is going to do a yearlong 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the plant in 2025. They would like the surrounding towns to help by putting up special banners from August to mid-November. This will not interfere with any of the City’s celebratory banners. SRS will purchase the banners. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-5 PEBA PARTICIPATION ADDENDUM**

Administrator McEwen explained that PEBA has amended their definition of “Employee” for purposes of eligibility to participate in the state insurance benefits program. They are allowing currently participating counties and municipalities to exercise a one-time, irrevocable option to exclude council members from the definition of “Employee” Currently the City does not have any council members on the insurance plan. The yearly cost per member would be \$7,900 for employee coverage up to \$17,500 for family coverage. PEBA is asking for an addendum to our participation resolution on how to treat council members. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 PEBA Participation Addendum with the selection that members of the Council will not be considered active employees of the employer for the purposes of participation in the state insurance benefits program. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley thanked Marcus Wilson for stepping in while he was out on medical. He did a great job. GHD had a drone surveying for the SCAT Park Project.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Mosquito spraying is in full force. If anyone has any problem areas, they can report them to City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw attended the Barnwell County Transportation Committee meeting. Paving in Woodcrest is 90% complete and the committee approved more funding to pave Main St. next to City Hall.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – PR&T Director Tommy Elkins thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to be Interim Director. The Independence Day Celebration will be held at Veteran's Park on June 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6pm until fireworks around 9pm. Registration for fall sports (Football, Volleyball, & Cheerleading) will continue until August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bathrooms at Fuller Park have been vandalized again and are closed until they can be cleaned up. The Lemon Park Sports Complex will host a District Tournament on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Splash pad repairs are almost completed. They are waiting on a part.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Michael Butts gave an update on monthly activity. Officers have been patrolling neighborhoods and parks. One officer is attending the academy. Barnwell will host some academy training classes between the second week of July and the end of August. These will be free or at a reduced cost for Barnwell officers. The police department along with the sheriff's office will have National Night Out at Veteran's Park on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm. The department has started issuing city ordinance tickets.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Fire Chief Delk reported on May activity. They will begin moving into the new station on June 10<sup>th</sup>. He will be attending the fire conference in Myrtle Beach June 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. He will also be going to the E One facility July 10<sup>th</sup> - July 12<sup>th</sup> to go over specs for the new fire truck.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – Mayor Still said he has been in touch with SafeBuilt to see what was needed to enforce building codes. He wants to set up a meeting with SafeBuilt, the City Administrator, City Attorney, Building & Planning Committee, Police Chief, and Code Enforcement Officer, to formalize the recommendation from SafeBuilt. Council will then have to adopt them.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said they were planning a meeting with downtown business owners and leaders to get their input on what they would like to see revitalization wise for the facade guidelines. The mural is pending final design and final approval of the business owner and City Council.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
- She needs MASC Annual Meeting worksheet from any council member going to the meeting.
- New bid opening date for garbage collection is set for June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.
- Need to set a time for Council photo.

## ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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