

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

The press were notified but none were present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

**RESOLUTION 2024-7 “A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE DIXIE YOUTH
PONYTAILS SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS”**

Mayor Still read the resolution. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-7. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

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INTRODUCTION CAPTAIN THORPE

Police Chief Michael Butts presented Police Officer James Thorpe with a plaques for his promotion to Captain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Still asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Dixon recused himself because of a conflict. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter into Executive Session to receive legal advice as to settlement negotiation pending litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved by the remaining Council.

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to accept the recommendation from legal counsel as to mediation and negotiations in pending litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion passed 6 to 0 with Councilmember Dixon recusing himself.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024, special council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

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**SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-4 “AN ORDINANCE TO
AMEND ORDINANCE 2022-4 BY ADDING SECTION 6-24 ADOPTED AND
REFERENCE CODES SECTION (9) INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
CODE”**

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 Claytor made a motion to approve the second & final reading of Ordinance 2024-4. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE LOW BID FOR THE ELEVATED WATER TANK PROJECT

Administrator McEwen presented the bid results for the Elevated Water Tank Project. It is her recommendation along with the City’s contracted engineers to accept the low bid of \$2,649,500 from Macguire Iron Inc. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to accept the City Administrator’s recommendation and to have the City Administrator manage the necessary contracts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said they are working on a project with SCDOT to develop a plan for crosswalk upgrades in the intersections coming into downtown and around the circle.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – Council was provided with a report on monthly activities.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Michael Butts gave an update on monthly activity. He has one open position for a police officer. They will host a radar training class at the fire station in August. The class is put on by the Criminal Justice Academy’s Mobile Training Unit and is free to participants. Officer Love graduated from the academy and is now certified.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Council was provided with a report on monthly activities.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – No Report

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said they had their open to the public meeting last month and received information on what people would like to see with the downtown improvements. They also had a meeting with the Youth Advisory Council and local artist for the mural and they should have a draft by the end of the month. Several other possible projects include a City cash program through the City's website to purchase digital gift cards from participating businesses, wayfinding signage, and adding a section to the City's website to increase social media presence.

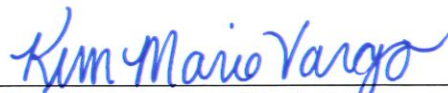
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- We are continuing to monitor the storm but do not have any closings at this time.
- There is a special called meeting for Monday, August 12th at 5:30 for a public hearing and second reading of the budget plus some additional items.
- The grand opening and dedication of the new fire station will be held Saturday, September 7th from 10:00 to 12:00.
- Provided an update from Retail Strategies.
- There will be a Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on August 26th, at 5:30 pm for the property at 154 Turner St.
- Dollar General is building a new store on Hwy 70.
- She is still working with the County on the kayak program.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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