

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL

December 4, 2023 – 5:30PM

MEETING LOCATION:

130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, James Moody, Ryan Bragg and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, PRT Director Keven Roberts, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, and Police Chief Robert Miller

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

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Councilmember Bragg led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reverend Michael O'Neal congratulated Mayor Rivera on his tenure as Mayor. He thanked him for bringing the community together and wants to see the new council continue to make sure everyone counts.

SWEARING IN NEW POLICE OFFICER

Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to new police officer Christopher Brown.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Hunter Delk was recognized as student of the month.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Anovetek was recognized as the business of the month.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Councilmember Moody made a motion to accept the election results. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. The declared winners of the November 7, 2023 election were Mayor-Ron Still, City Council District 2-Peggy Kinlaw, City Council District 4-Wanda Highsmith, and City Council District 6-Jana Black Myers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2023, Regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

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SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-14 “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2024, OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,200,000; FIXING THE FORM AND CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-14. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-15 “AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 OF 2020”

Councilmember Still 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 and final reading of Ordinance 2023-15. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the 2024 City Council meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the 2024 holiday schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER BONUSES

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the volunteer firefighter bonuses. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL FOR DONATION REQUEST TO AIKEN-BARNWELL RECOVERY
FOUNDATION**

Councilmember Still stated that the Aiken-Barnwell Recovery Foundation was sponsoring a walk on December 9, 2023 to support the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center. He made a motion to donate \$200 to this cause. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. The motion was unanimously approved. Councilmember Davis suggested that moving forward a policy should be implemented.

**APPROVAL TO ACCEPT OFFER AND MOVE FORWARD WITH AN ORDINANCE
TO SELL THE PROPERTY OF 379 SQUARE FEET TO SCDOT**

Administrator McEwen explained that this is the property by the lift station on Marlboro Ave (Highway 3). SCDOT needs this property as part of their right of way for widening Highway 3. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve and accept the offer. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved. This will have to be done by ordinance and it will be presented at the January meeting.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Claytor and Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Still) – Mayor Rivera stated that SCDNR has done a great job of cleaning up around the lake. Administrator McEwen said that the lights on the dike are currently off due to a contractor cutting the line. The City will get with SCDNR to see what their plans are for the dike to see if the lights need to be replaced.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts said that the Christmas Celebration and Parade was cancelled due to the threat of bad weather. There will be a Christmas Tree Lighting program on Thursday December 7th, at 5:30. Basketball registration is ongoing and will end December 20th. They are prepping for the new pavilion at Fuller Park.

Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – Interim Chief of Police Robert Miller informed Council that an officer has resigned. This makes the department three officers short so they will have to start using overtime to cover shifts. The openings have been advertised but we are not receiving any applications. Mayor Rivera asked the police committee to set up a meeting to see if anything can be done to help.

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Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave an update on monthly activity. He invited Council to the annual fireman’s Christmas dinner on Friday. Bids for the new firetruck will be opened on December 21st.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – Administrator McEwen informed Council that a review of the budget will allow an increase in the Christmas bonuses. The bonuses will be doubled.

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor and Still) – Administrator McEwen informed Council that there have been some issues with a modular building permit on Marlboro Ave. The permit has currently been revoked. There is a question about it being a certified modular building by state statutes which is required by City zoning. The City is checking with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. Mayor Rivera questioned why the permit was issued originally and now it is being revoked. He said that this was not the first time that there was a problem with the permit process and the City needed to look into this. He asked the building and planning committee to arrange a meeting with the owner.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- They are still waiting for a part to rectify the issues on the Joey Zorn Well project.
- Council is invited to the employee Christmas luncheon to be held Wednesday, December 13th.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Moody said he enjoyed serving on Council and offered his assistance in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw said that it was a pleasure working with everyone and looks forward to working with the new members of Council. Councilmember Davis invited Council to be part of the unity choir she was putting together for the Christmas tree lighting. Councilmember Still thanked outgoing Council for their service. Mayor Rivera thanked each member of Council for their service.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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