

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
February 6, 2023 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw presiding.

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

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, and PRT Director Kevin Roberts

The media was notified but none were present.

**CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

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## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BARBARA CHRISTIAN TO PROVIDE UPDATE TO TNVR PROGRAM**

Ms. Barbara Christian, Co-Chair of the Barnwell County Animal Shelter Foundation TNVR Committee, updated Council on the progress of implementing the TNVR program. Barnwell County Council has amended their animal control ordinances to include the TNVR program. The euthanasia rate at the animal shelter has gone down considerably. The committee wants to work with all of the municipalities in the county along with the county sheriff to educate animal control officers and the public about the program. She would like to have Council's support. She knows that the City is in the process of updating their animal control ordinances and would like to have the TNVR program included in the update.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2023, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2023, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2023, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2023, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL TO CHANGE THE MARCH MEETING DATE FROM MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM DUE TO THE RURAL SUMMIT PRESENTATION**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to change the March 2023 City Council meeting date from March 6th to March 13th. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF AN OPTION FOR THE REDISTRICTING OF CITY OF BARNWELL**

City Administrator Lynn McEwen informed Council that after input from Council, she worked with the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office on several different scenarios, but the two drafts provided are the most feasible options. Draft 1 is the same as the original option presented and is below the 5% deviation rate. Draft 2 keeps the neighborhoods more contiguous throughout the districts but has a deviation rate of 7.87%. This is higher than the 5% recommended rate but lower than the 10% limit. Councilmember Still made a motion to accept Draft 1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg. Discussion followed. Councilmember Davis said that her concern with Draft 1 is that it impacts her district by taking a handful of people out of a neighborhood and puts them in another district. There are neighbors around each other that will be in different districts. Mayor Rivera said that Draft 2 keeps the neighborhoods together and the numbers are not too far off. Councilmember Still said Draft 1 gives better target numbers and is below a 5% deviation rate. The motion passed 4 to 2. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmembers Bragg, Moody, and Still voted for the motion. Mayor Rivera and Councilmember Davis voted against the motion.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw & Councilmember Ron Still) –No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Ron Still & Jimbo Moody)-Directory Kevin Roberts said that they are in the second week of basketball and all is going well. They are getting ready for baseball and softball season. He is working on an agreement with BBSA to run the concession stand at the LPSC for a fee of \$1,000. The Daddy/Daughter Dance is scheduled for this Friday.

Police (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Alicia Davis) –Chief Lamaz Robinson said the department had a slow month. He invited Council to ride along with the officers to see what goes on in the City. Councilmember Still said he did a ride along and it was a positive experience.

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Fire (Councilmember Ryan Bragg & Ron Still and Mayor Rivera) – Council was provided with a written report from Chief Dicks.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Ryan Bragg and Alicia Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmember Ron Still & Ryan Bragg) – No Report

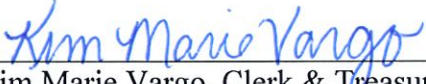
### **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- She was incorrect last month and the SCDHEC permits for the well project have not been approved yet. The project will move forward as soon as they are received.
- Wi-Fi and camera projects are still being worked on. The cameras for City Hall, the Circle, and Fuller Park are working and we have access to them. They are currently working on the cameras at Lemon Park. Wi-Fi should be connected this week and we will be putting out information on locations and how to connect to it.
- They are currently working on six applications for the Blight Elimination Program.
- Statement of Economic Interests are due by March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Upcoming dates:
  - February 7<sup>th</sup> -Hometown Legislative Action Day
  - February 8<sup>th</sup> – MASC Classes
  - February 9<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Banquet
  - February 11<sup>th</sup> – Council Workshop
  - Mach 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – Rural Summit in Beaufort
  - March 13<sup>th</sup> – Rescheduled Council meeting
  - March 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup> – Department Head/Council Workshops

### **ADJOURN**

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

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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