

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
November 6, 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, and Fire Chief Phillip Delk

The press was notified but none were present.

**CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER**

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to amend the agenda by removing Items 5 & 6, swearing in of police officer and student recognition. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-07 IN APPRECIATION OF BARBARA CHRISTIAN**

City Administrator Lynn McEwen read Resolution 2023-07 in appreciation for the contributions made by Ms. Barbara Christian to Barnwell's Remembrance of 9-11. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023, Regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE LATEST MOU FROM BARNWELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Councilmember Still made a motion to accept the Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement signed on October 4, 2023 by Interim Police Chief Robert Miller Sr. and Barnwell County Sheriff Steven Griffith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**FIRST 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"**

Administrator McEwen gave a recap of revenues and expenses for the new fire station. Paid and contracted expenses exceed funding for this project, so a general obligation bond is needed. Although ARPA funds may bring the needed funds below \$800,000, additional expenses are

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anticipated. This is the reason for the “not to exceed \$1,200,000”. Councilmember Still made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

**FIRST 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”**

Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo explained that with the Act, there will be a new rate class schedule every two years. The changes in the rate classes are based on updated IRS profitability statistics. This ordinance will update the rate classes for the business license year beginning May 1, 2024. The license rates are the same for each class although some class 9 rates have been eliminated. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RFQ FOR FULLER PARK**

Administrator McEwen said the RFQ for design services for Fuller Park has already been reviewed by the Mayor and recreation committee. They recommend moving forward. If approved, we are expecting to get the RFQ’s back in mid-January and work on plans throughout the spring. Councilmember Moody made a motion to move forward with the RFQ. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

**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 said SCDNR has done a good job in cleaning up around the lake.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts said the fall sports season is wrapping up and has been very successful. The splashpad has been closed and winterized. The Turkey Trot is scheduled for Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. The Christmas Celebration and Parade is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm. Basketball registration is ongoing and will end December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – No Report

Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave an update on monthly activity. The majority of calls are for EMS. The County is working with their current EMS provider to resolve some issues, so these calls should decrease.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor and Still) – No Report

Councilmember Still said it was National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week and he wanted to thank all the individuals involved for their hard work for the City and the County.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- They are still working out issues on the Joey Zorn Well Project.
- Construction for the new fire station is on schedule.
- I have applied for another Litter Crew Grant with Palmetto Pride. They will be awarded in January.
- The capital lease with BB&T for the LPSC was paid off in October.
- I have joined a group of 25 or so leaders throughout the Lower Savannah and Salkehatchie River Basins as part of statewide water planning for the future of South Carolina water resources. This is a two-year planning process and will culminate in a statewide plan that will be introduced in 2026.

### ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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