

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
July 10, 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, Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, Public Works Director Philip Stanley and PRT Director Kevin Roberts

Mr. Jonathan Vickery of the People Sentinel was also present.

**PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2023-01
AND 2023-02 FOR PARCELS ON JACKSON STREET. (TAX ID# 073-11-04-015 AND
073-10-02-002**

There were no Public Comments for the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

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

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments

OVERVIEW OF THE YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM FOR BARNWELL AND BAMBERG COUNTIES

Mr. Bartel Boone provided information and an overview of the program for youth ages 16 to 24. This program is available to young adults who have dropped out of school to help them get their GED as well as skills training in things like construction and plumbing. They already have 7 active participants in the program.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 5, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023, regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2023, BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023, Budget Workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2023, BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, Budget Workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-9, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL WITH RE-ZONING REQUESTS 2023-01 AND 2023-02”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-9. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL FOR THE WORK ORDER FOR THE ELEVATED WATER TANK PROJECT

Administrator McEwen had provided the council with the work order for \$198,090 for engineering. This amount must come from the water/sewer budget as the grants will not pay for engineering costs. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the work order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW HOSPITALITY TAX GRANT OFFERINGS

Administrator McEwen and PR&T Director Kevin Roberts had provided council with the full hospitality tax grant application packet. This provides the city a better way to track how the funds are spent when given to other entities. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the grant offerings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg 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) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Moody and Still) – PRT Director Kevin Roberts stated that the Independence Day Celebration went well on Friday, June 30 at Veteran’s Park. He said we will continue to work this event and strive to make it even better. Fall sports registration is going well. New logos and new uniforms are being ordered. The Splash Pad is working fine at this time. They have made some improvements and a few replacements for better flow. We are now fully staffed in the department and everyone is working well together.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023

Police (Councilmembers Davis and Moody) – Council was provided with a written report on activity during the month.

Fire (Councilmember Bragg & Still) – Council was provided with a written report from this month. Councilmember Still also mentioned that the foreman for the new fire station project is working at the building preparing for the initial start up of the project.

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

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Blight Program – 5 properties have already come down due to this program. Several more properties are being worked on and will hopefully be scheduled for demo within the next month. I have given you some before and after photos of the properties that have already been completed (or are almost complete). We have received the request for the other \$55,000 from Southeastern Housing and Community Dev. They have spent \$18k and have obligated another \$12k. They are also in the process of committing another \$12k. These funds will finish out the amount approved to provide for this program from the ARPA funds. Administrator McEwen provided Council with before and after photos of the houses and lots.
- Joey Zorn Well Project – We are waiting for the final SCDHEC approval for the well to go completely online and for our complete takeover of it.
- Fire Station – The project foreman is on site and working out of the front area of the old part of the police/fire station. Silt fencing is to be put in place this week along with construction fencing on the property. We have received the \$2M from the SRS settlement fund. Even though we are expecting another \$500k from the state later this year, we will still be short in paying for the entire project.
- We had a meeting with Cascades last week to understand their process over the rest of this month in closing down the plant. They will have some systems (like fire suppression and domestic water/wastewater continuing with very little use, but the main water and wastewater for all plant processes will finish out by the last week of July.
- There will be a special called meeting next Monday at 5:30 pm for the Ordinance on the budget.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL – FIRE DEPT.- CHANGES

Councilmember Bragg made a motion to go into executive session for personnel discussion on the fire department changes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Mayor Rivera declared the council was out of executive session. Councilmember Still made a motion accept the Administrator's and the Fire Chief's recommendation to promote Deputy Chief Phillip Delk to Fire Chief, which will be a part-time role, and Captain Scotty Hankins to Deputy Fire Chief. An additional employee will be sought to cover the shifts at the fire station. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:


Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator