

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
January 10, 2022 – 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 and Councilmembers Brad All, Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, Peggy Kinlaw, James Moody and Ron Still

**Councilmembers Absent:** None

**Others Present:** City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, and Fire Chief Tony Dicks

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY REP. LONNIE HOSEY**

SC Representative Lonnie.Hosey presented a resolution from the SC House of Representatives to Mrs. Kay Pattillo. Mayor Rivera read the resolution that expressed profound sorrow upon the passing of Robert “Bob” Pattillo Jr. and celebrated his life and achievements.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-1 IN MEMORY OF JOE GAINES**

There was no one to receive so the item was postponed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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## **ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

Mayor Rivera called for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember All nominated Peggy Kinlaw and Mayor Rivera nominated Jimbo Moody. Councilmember Still made a motion to nominate Councilmember Kinlaw as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved. Mayor Rivera stated that Councilmember Kinlaw is the first female to be elected as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Barnwell.

Mayor Rivera stated that he will appoint one person to each committee. He will have a special advisory committee made up of citizens that will help with some of the decisions.

Water & Sewer – Brad All  
Sanitation & Streets – Peggy Kinlaw  
Parks & Recreation – Alicia Davis  
Police – Jimbo Moody  
Fire – Ryan Bragg  
Finance & Salary – Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis  
Building & Planning – Ron Still

Mayor Rivera stated the advisory committee members will be Lisa Firmender, Steven Hunter, Steven Brown, Robert Hemby, David Dangerfield, and Emily Coble. Councilmember Still asked Mayor Rivera what this committee would help with. Mayor Rivera said the committee will meet the second Monday of every month. They will give insight on any planning or help with projects they would like to see in the City.

## **APPOINTMENT OF CITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE BARNWELL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Mayor Rivera appointed Councilmember Alicia Davis as the City Representative for the BCEDC.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2021, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2021, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

Administrator McEwen reminded Council to tell her if someone approaches them about speaking at a council meeting. Some things can be handled at City Hall and will not need to be brought before Council. If it is something that needs to be voted on, it needs to be added to the agenda. The proposed updated public participation guidelines have removed the requirement to be a citizen to participate in public comment. Discussion followed on who should be able to participate during public comment. Councilmember Still made a motion to amend the original guidelines to allow speakers at public comment to be citizens, business owners and property owners of the City of Barnwell unless given special consent by Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

**RECAP OF THE YEAR END FIGURES FOR FY21**

Administrator McEwen reviewed the preliminary financial reports for the year ending September 30, 2021 for Clerk & Treasurer Vargo in her absence. The budget was very conservative due to the uncertain impact of COVID. COVID did not impact revenues except for accommodation taxes. All department expenditures came in under budget. Personnel costs came in under budget due to personnel turnover. The General Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund both had a good year. In the General Fund, revenues were at 109% of budget and expenditures were at 88% of budget. In the W&S Fund, revenues were at 106% of budget and expenses were at 93% of budget. These percentages are before capital improvements. Additional adjustments for pensions and depreciation will be necessary for the final figures for the financial statements.

**DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON THE 2022 BASKETBALL SEASON**

Approximately 140 to 150 children are signed up for basketball and we do not currently have a Recreation Director. Mayor Rivera stated that the City should still provide recreation programs even without a director. Volunteers should be utilized. Discussion followed concerning volunteers, administrative duties, and game scheduling. Councilmember Moody made a motion to proceed with the 2022 basketball season. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmember All) – Administrator McEwen read a report provided by Director Stanley.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmember Kinlaw) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Davis) – No Report

Police (Councilmembers Moody) – Chief Robinson updated Council on activity for December. There has been an increase in vehicle break ins, and he wanted to remind people to lock their car doors. The police department was asked to turn off the lights at the Fuller Park basketball courts if no one was using them.

Fire (Councilmember Bragg) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council with a written report for activity for December.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmember Still) – No Report

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- Due to some of the storms causing roof damage and other structural damage to homes and businesses, I would like to remind all citizens that the City of Barnwell does require permits from licensed contractors for roof or structural work done to businesses and even to homes. If a contractor does not already have a city business license, they are also required to purchase that as well. Business owners and citizens should understand that this is set up to protect them.
- I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Palmetto Pride Litter Crew Grant for \$21,100. We will be utilizing our public works crews to remove litter several times each month all over the city. We will also be clearing several dump sites in town. We hope to also hear from the Palmetto Pride Prevention Grant in the middle of this month. We will continue our Make a Difference Campaigns but using different days to try and increase our volunteers.
- Make a Difference Monday was canceled for today.
- The Treasury's Final Rule for ARPA funds has been established and published. It does seem to broaden the scope a bit for the uses of the funds. We need to set up another meeting with the advisory group to look at our needs and how priorities should be established.

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Councilmember Still asked for a special prayer for Kaydence Chavis. Councilmember Bragg led in prayer.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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