

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
March 14, 2022 – 5:30PM**

**MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812**

Barnwell City Council met in a Special Called Meeting for a Business License Hearing with Councilmember Moody presiding.

**Councilmembers Present:** Councilmembers Brad All, Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, James Moody and Ron Still

**Councilmembers Absent:** Mayor Marcus Rivera and Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw

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

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

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF HEARING**

City Attorney Thomas Boulware stated that in the absence of the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem, Council needs to elect a member to chair the hearing. Councilmember Davis nominated Councilman Moody. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Still made a motion to elect Councilmember Moody to chair this hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All and unanimously approved. Councilmember Moody will be the presiding officer of the hearing.

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Councilmember Moody called the meeting to order. Councilmember Still led in prayer.

**CONDUCT OF HEARING**

Councilmember Moody called to order the hearing by the City Council on the revocation of the business license of the business High Maintenance Stylez located at 1072 Meadow Lane in the City of Barnwell. This hearing is part of the procedure for suspension and revocation of a business license under Sections 16 and 17 of the City Business License Ordinance.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022

Councilmember Moody then read Sections 16 and 17. Councilmembers, party representatives or attorneys, and witnesses were asked to identify themselves for the record.

The Administrator and Business License Official were represented by Attorney Danny Crowe, and the Licensee was represented by the Honorable Marcus Rivera who is the husband of the business owner and also serves as Mayor of the City. Because of his involvement in the hearing as the non-attorney representative and as the husband of the owner of the Licensee, the Mayor did not participate in the hearing as a member of Council. City Attorney Thomas Boulware represented the Council at the hearing. The License Official offered the sworn testimony of three witnesses: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Business License Official Kim Vargo, and neighborhood resident Debbie McEwen and also introduced exhibits. The Licensee and its representative did not offer any witnesses to testify under oath. However, the Licensee's representative was afforded the right to and did cross examine the witnesses presented by the Administrator and License Official and offered an exhibit and presented and cross examined from other documents. Both Attorney Crowe and Mayor Rivera also presented argument to the Council.

### **DECISION OF COUNCIL**


Councilmember Davis asked Administrator McEwen if there was an appeal in process. Administrator McEwen said there was. Councilmember Still made a motion to revoke the business license for High Maintenance Stylez. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All. The motion passed 4 to 1. Councilmembers All, Bragg, Moody and Still voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Davis voted against the motion.

Attorney Crowe was asked by Council to prepare and submit to them the proposed written decision for the Council's consideration no later than April 4, 2022, the next regular meeting.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Still mad a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022