

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
July 26, 2022 – 5:00PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in Special Called Meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw presiding.

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

Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Marcus Rivera

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, Attorney Tom Boulware, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, Police Captain Mark Howard, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM TRAVEL

Councilmember Still said he wanted this placed on the agenda for Council to consider giving more money to the girls' softball team that will be going to Nationals. The City has already given \$300 in platinum sponsorship. He has since found out that they have reached their goal. Upon their return, he would like to present them with a resolution and have a plaque installed for them at the Lemon Park Sports Complex. Councilmember Bragg made a motion to get a plaque for the girls' softball team and have in installed at the LPSC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All and unanimously approved.

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DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CAPITAL EXPENSE NEEDS

City Administrator Lynn McEwen provided an option for buying or leasing vehicles. Use ARPA funds to purchase 3 new police vehicles-\$150,000 and one new vehicle for administration-\$30,000. Use hospitality tax savings to purchase a new maintenance vehicle for the LPSC. We are still looking at applying for a CDBG grant for a pumper truck. She suggested that we earmark \$1,000,000 of the ARPA funds to add to the \$350,000 toward renovation the fire station. If cost estimates are over the \$1,350,000 use savings or pass a GO bond. The price of a street sweeper has gone up over \$100,000 so she suggests we hold off on this purchase. These items will not affect the upcoming budget unless we want to purchase the vehicles with a capital lease or use the Enterprise lease fleet program.

Councilmember Still said he has talked to five agencies that are on the Enterprise lease program that was brought up at the last council meeting. He only heard good things about the program. He said we might want to look into the program if only for a few vehicles. Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo stated that the program presented has several options-gas, maintenance, etc. that the City wasn't interested in. If the only thing the City is going to use the program for is to finance the purchase of vehicles, the city can get a lower interest rate from a capital lease purchase agreement through a bank than the rate offered by Enterprise. Discussion followed. This was taken as information to be decided on at a later date.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE NEED FOR AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Administrator McEwen explained that Officer Gantt who retired as the animal control officer also had other duties. The call volume for these issues does not seem to warrant a full-time animal control officer. Councilmember Moody made a motion to hire an animal control officer. He wants them to be a certified officer that can also do code enforcement and other duties but focus on animal control. There is a position currently vacant in the police department. The motion was seconded by Councilmen Still. Police Captain Mark Howard was asked to give his opinion. He stated that the vacant position in the police department was for a road officer. If this position was filled with a daytime animal control officer, the City would be taking an officer off shift work. There are only 2 road officers working per shift. His request was that the animal control officer be an additional position. Discussion followed. Another problem with animal control is the current ordinances regarding animal control. They need to be looked at and revised. Councilmember Moody modified his motion to make this an additional position in the police department. Councilmember Still seconded the motion. Ms. Vargo said that the personnel costs of adding a new position could be up to \$66,000. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION (1) CONTRACTUAL (2) PERSONNEL: SALARIES FOR FY 23
AND (3) PERSONNEL: TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE**


Councilmember Moody made a motion to do into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and was unanimously approved. Council went into executive session.

Council returned to regular session.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Moody made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer