

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
September 12, 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 Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Brad All, Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, James Moody, and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

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

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

STUDENT RECOGNITION

None

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Toni Hutchins said that she was the Board Chair for the Barnwell County Animal Shelter. She offered her services to help with input into updating animal control ordinances.

Ms. Debra Coleman expressed her concerns again about the services provided by S&S Disposal. Yard debris in her neighborhood is not being picked up. She has seen other areas in the City where yard debris has been left for weeks.

Ms. Angela Williams said that her father lives on Derry Lane and there is a vacant house near him that is a nuisance. The house has no water or electricity hooked up, yet there is a steady stream of different people coming and going from the house. The neighbors are concerned. Administrator McEwen said that the City is aware of the situation and is trying to address the problem.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-05, A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE DIXIE YOUTH ANGELS SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES RUNNERS UP

Mayor Rivera read the resolution honoring the Dixie Youth Angels softball team. Councilman Still made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved. A framed copy of the resolution will be given to each player.

PRESENTATION FROM THE ANIMAL SHELTER

Ms. Toni Hutchins, with the Animal Shelter Board, explained the TNVR program. This program traps, neuters, vaccinates, and returns healthy stray cats. They have received a grant from Best Friends to help implement this program. This program has been successful in Aiken County. Barnwell County is moving toward this program. Discussion followed. This was taken as information only.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

SCA PRESENTATION OF THE RETAIL STRATEGIES PROGRAM

Ms. Kathy Rhoad, with South Carolina Alliance, informed Council that the USDA has provided grant funding for retail strategies training and the City of Barnwell was included in the grant. She explained the training process. Mayor Rivera, City Administrator Lynn McEwen, and Mr. Bob Snead will receive the training for the City.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1 2022, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2022, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 29, 2022, PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022, public hearing and special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-06, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUTURE MATCHING FUNDING FOR THE 2022 FALL ROUND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Administrator McEwen said LSCOG has assisted the City with writing a grant for a pumper truck for the fire department. The maximum amount of the CDBG grant is \$480,000. The budgeted cost of the truck is \$702,000. Ms. McEwen read the resolution committing the City to provide 10% matching funds plus any overages needed to meet the project budget if the grant is

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

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

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SAFEUILT CAROLINAS LLC

Administrator McEwen explained that Safeuilt provides building permits and inspection services for the City, and it has been a good relationship. The new agreement has a different fee structure, and all fees will increase to 90%. Currently Safeuilt receives 80% of building permit fees and 90% of plan review fees charged by the City. This service is regulatory, and we do not make money on it. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the updated agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE BUILDING AND FIRE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONTRACT MANAGER FOR THE FIRE STATION

Administrator McEwen said that she, the building and fire committees, Chief Dicks, and his senior staff met and reviewed the four RFQs submitted for the Fire Station Contract Manager. Their recommendation is to move forward with Contractor A. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bragg and unanimously approved

APPROVAL OF THE EXTENSION TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Administrator McEwen explained that the Municipal Clerk of Court position is still vacant. The current agreement with the County for these services expires at the end of September. Councilmember Bragg made a motion to approve the extension of the intergovernmental agreement through December 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF WHEN TRICK OR TREAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY FOR 2022

Mayor Rivera said that he was getting messages from concerned citizens about Halloween being on a Monday. He also talked to the recreation committee. He suggested that from here on out, Halloween should be celebrated on the last Saturday in October. Councilmember Moody said he

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

had heard from teachers who wanted it on a Saturday. Councilmember Still said he had also heard from parents to have it on a weekend. Discussion followed. Councilmember Davis made a motion to celebrate Halloween in the City on the last Saturday in October each year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Brad All & Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Ron Still) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Alicia Davis & Jimbo Moody) – Recreation Director Kevin Roberts said 250 children have registered for fall sports. The hill at Fuller Park has been cleared and the fence has been taken down. Mayor Rivera asked if Adams’s Nursery could help with some of the flowers and hedges at Collins Park. Administrator McEwen said she would look into it.

Police (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Brad All) – Police Chief Robinson gave an update on monthly activity. Councilmember Still said he has been getting a lot of complaints from citizens about speeding in the areas of Deerwood Rd, Highway 70, Galilee Rd, and Ansley Rd. He asked for more patrols in those areas.

Fire (Councilmember Ryan Bragg & Ron Still and Mayor Rivera) – No Report

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

Building and Planning (Councilmember Ron Still & Ryan Bragg) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

- Data from the June Independence Day celebration showed a little less than 2,500 individuals attended
- We are waiting on lab analysis from the test well before we can move forward with the Joey Zorn Well Project
- The contractor did a great job of removing and refilling the area of the old sheriff’s building. We are looking into getting some asphalt milling or crush and run to cover the dirt.
- Cameras and Wi-Fi will be going in at Lemon Park, Fuller Park, and City Hall this next month
- We are in the middle of the website upgrades and are adding more photos.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

- City Council Chamber renovations will take longer than expected due to equipment being on backorder.
- 32 flags have been ordered for veterans. We are in the proofing stage and will have them printed and put up by November
- The calendar for September and October includes:
 Planning commission meeting, Tuesday, September 13th, 6:00 pm at City Hall on updating the zoning ordinance book and map
 Community public meeting, Monday, September 19th, 4:00 pm at City Hall on the application for the Community Development Block Grant to purchase the new fire truck
 Open House, Wednesday, October 5th, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Barnwell County Library on the SCDNR/FEMA Floodplain Management and Flood Zones of the Salkehatchie Watershed

Administrator McEwen gave Council an updated spreadsheet on ARPA paid expenditures and commitments.

Councilmember Moody asked what was being done about the nuisance house on Derry Lane. Administrator McEwen said she is working with Police Chief Robinson to follow the proper steps to get the situation taken care of properly and legally.

Mayor Rivera asked if we had arranged a meeting with personnel from the State Health Plan. Administrator McEwen said we just received the information about the new premium costs and Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo was working on cost comparisons.

Mayor Rivera asked if we could put out information about what S&S Disposal is responsible for picking up. Administrator McEwen said that the information is on the website, two letters detailing this information have been sent to citizens, and individual complaints are handled as they are received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL/PROCEDURAL/INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still. Mr. Jonathan Vickery from the People Sentinel asked for clarification on the specific reason for going into executive session under the FOIA laws. He said the way some of the reasons listed are worded do not line up with the FOIA laws, particularly informational briefing. Mayor Rivera addressed the question to City Attorney Thomas Boulware. Mr. Boulware said he was not sure. Administrator McEwen said the question needs to go to Sheriff Griffith since he requested the executive session. The City was not provided any information from the Sheriff other than the request. The Sheriff said the briefing would contain sensitive personnel information. Mayor Rivera said he had questioned the reason himself. Mr.

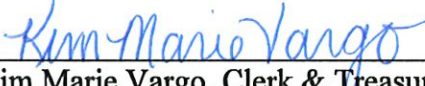
Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
 September 12, 2022

Boulware said if it was a matter of personnel, that was allowed in executive session under FOIA, but he did not know what the discussion was about. Mayor Rivera asked if they could legally proceed with executive session. Mr. Boulware said the Sheriff has requested to speak to Council on the matter of personnel and he thinks he is entitled to do that. He asked the Mayor if he was asking to have it done in open session. Mayor Rivera said they could not discuss personnel in open session. Mr. Boulware said he did not know of any other way to proceed. Either that or tell the Sheriff he could not address Council. Discussion followed. Mayor Rivera asked Mr. Boulware if the Council was able to discuss personnel with the Sheriff. If they could legally do that, they could move on into executive session. Mr. Boulware said he wished he knew what was going to be presented so he knew how to advise Council, but the Sheriff was here to address Council about personnel and he thought the Sheriff was entitled to do that. Council voted and the motion to go into executive session passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022