

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
December 2 2024 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Still presiding.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ron Still, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, Ricky Dixon, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: Wanda Highsmith

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, Police Chief Michael Butts, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, PRT Director Tommy Elkins, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Councilmember Myers led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2024, REGULAR
SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**SECOND & FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-8 “AN ORDINANCE TO
REPEAL AND REPLACE IN ITS ENTIRETY ARTICLE VII DROUGHT RESPONSE
SECTION 32-458 DECLARATION OF POLICY AND AUTHORITY”**

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-8. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT GUIDE AND
FORM**

Administrator McEwen presented the revised forms to Council. If approved, it will become effective January 1st. It will be updated as needed. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the Special Events Permit Guide and Form. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

REVIEW OF FYE 9-30-24 PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Clerk & Treasurer reviewed the preliminary financial reports for FYE September 30, 2024. The General Fund had an increase in fund balance of \$444,537. Half of this was due to personnel expenditure being under budget due to vacancies. Collections for business license revenue and franchise fees were also higher than budgeted. \$324,807 of the fund balance will be restricted for the City's portion of the CDBG grant for a new fire truck. The Water and Sewer Fund had an excess of revenues that went toward water and sewer improvements. She advised Council that there may be some adjustments to the final audited figures.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the 2025 City Council meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the 2025 holiday schedule. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER BONUSES

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the volunteer firefighter bonuses. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley said the cleaning, videoing, and smoke testing of the selected lines for the sewer line rehab project has been completed. We are just waiting for the report to indicate the problem areas.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – PRT Director Tommy Elkins said basketball and cheerleading registration will close on January 3rd. Laser work on the baseball fields will begin tomorrow. There will be a tournament held at Lemon Park on December 14th. The Christmas Parade is this Saturday, December 7th

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Butts gave a report on monthly activities. The department is still working on the speeding issues. Traffic cones and a trailer have been purchased to help with special events.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Fire Chief Philip Delk gave a report on monthly activities. They will host Pancakes with Santa on Saturday, December 7th. The department is getting ready for the Christmas parade. He is working on an application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase radios and equipment. The grant application is due December 20th.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – No Report

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Dixon said they had a meeting with PRT and local artists. They discussed an art theme for the City, an art

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contest, and creating a local artist guild. Councilmember Myers thanked Swiss Krono for funding a mural at Tinsley Rivers.

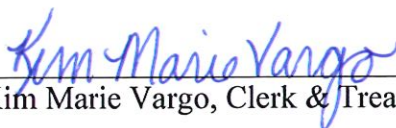
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Storm debris cleanup is ongoing. Our contractor is cleaning up the smaller debris and SCDOT has been cleaning up the larger debris. The goal is to have Barnwell cleaned up by Friday.
- We received a \$250,000 Rural Development & Strategic Planning Initiative Grant from SC Department of Commerce. The grant will be used for additional play structure, entryway, shade structure, and picnic tables in the upper area of Fuller Park.
- There will be a Planning Commission meeting on Monday, December 16th, at 6 pm to discuss several zoning map and ordinance issues.
- Mr. Joshua Thomas with Safebuilt code enforcement is working on several high profile commercial property issues.
- Construction for the SCIIP RIA elevated tank project has begun.
- Once we receive the report from the camera and smoke testing for the SCIIP RIA sewer rehab project, we will be able to go out for bids on rehabilitation of the prioritized lines.
- Easements are still being worked on for the SCIIP wastewater expansion project.
- SCDOT requires a break away post for the wayfinding signs. The design from the sign company has been sent to SCDOT to make sure it meets the requirements.
- On December 7th, the tree lighting will take place after the parade on the Circle beginning around 5:30.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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