

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
March 3, 2025 – 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, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

Stephanie Shavers with the People Sentinel were present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2025-2 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ALONG 3RD STREET TAX MAP 072-06-09-010 FROM R-7 TO RMF”

This ordinance will rezone the area to allow for a workforce housing project with 56 units. The Planning Commission has met with the developers for the project and agreed to move this to Council for their consideration.

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Mayor Still opened the public hearing.

Mr. Timothy Wiggins lives on 4th St. He is opposed to the development. He does not want 56 strangers living in a neighborhood where everyone knows each other and looks out for one another.

Mr. Stephen Hunter lives on Furman St. His concern is that there has not been enough information given out. He wanted to know if the developers could do something for the residents that are already living there.

Mr. Bennnie Wiggins Jr lives on 9th St and is a member of the Planning Commission. He said that if the people in the area do not want it then they should have a say.

There were no further comments, and Council went into regular session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hermania Williams lives on Mallard Dr. She has three concerns. The first is the safety of citizens because of the lack of adequate EMS service in the area. The second is the need for a hospital. The third is the Gail Reyes Center. They are only doing rentals now and there is no place for older people to go.

Mr. Willie Walker lives on Murphey St. He has the same concerns as Ms. Williams. He wanted to know why he has to pay taxes for an emergency room in Bamberg and there is also a need for more ambulances in the area.

Mayor Still thanked them for their comments and let them know that these are County issues that should be taken to the Barnwell County Council.

TNVR PRESENTATION FROM BARBARA CHRISTIAN

Ms. Barbara Christian is the Cochair of the Barnwell County TNVR Program. She gave a recap of the program and said it has been effective. They have been operating on grants and donations. They are requesting funds from the County and Municipalities. They are requesting that the City consider allocating \$3,480 in funds for the program in their upcoming budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter into executive session for discussion of propriety information on retail business prospects from Retail Strategies' report and discussion of contractual agreement with potential industry. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

APPROVAL TO FINISH YEAR 3 OF THE 3 YEAR CONTRACT WITH RETAIL STRATEGIES

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to finish year 3 of the 3 year contract with Retail Strategies. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH "PROJECT PAPER" PENDING OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilmember Davis made a motion to accept the City Administrators recommendation as to a contract with Project Paper subject to its execution of the proposed contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2025, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-1 "AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE IN ITS ENTIRETY, CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE VIII SOLAR USE, OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL ZONING ORDINANCE

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2025-1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-2 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ALONG 3RD STREET TAX MAP 072-06-09-010 FROM R-7 TO RMF"

Councilmember Davis made a motion to postpone the first reading of the ordinance to get more information. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

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RESOLUTION 2025-01 "A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF LYNN S. MCEWEN"

The resolution recognized Ms. McEwen for her 20 years of public service and her many accomplishments that resulted in the betterment of the City and its citizens. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to accept the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Ms. McEwen's last day as City Administrator is March 4th.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Councilmember Myers submitted information to Senator Hutto's office for Community Investment Funds and Recreation Funds. She said SCDOT said they will pull up the decorative pavers in the crosswalks around the Circle and replace them with asphalt with no cost to the City. The City must send in a written letter if this is what they want to do. Discussion followed and it was decided to get more information before a decision was made. Mayor Still wanted to address complaints about sanitation trucks picking up trash very early in the morning. He said the trucks must start early to pick up and dump at the landfill when they open so they can continue to pick up their routes for that day. He understands that it may cause some inconvenience, but it is only one day a week and is necessary for the service.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – Councilmember Dixon read an update from PRT Director Tommy Elkins. The Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held on Friday from 6pm to 8pm. Saturday will be the last day for basketball games. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in April. They are currently getting the fields prepared for baseball season.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Michael Butts gave a report on monthly activity. He completed training at the FBI Command College. The two new officers are in training. The department will have driver training on the 11th and the 13th. They have invited Bamberg, Blackville, and Williston to participate. Corporal McGinnis has retired and will be truly missed. The Mayor read an email from a citizen commending Officer Love.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave a report on monthly calls. They had \$12,00 in unexpected repairs to one of the fire engines.

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

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

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said the PRT committee and Downtown committee will be working on a joint project. They will have

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different animal structures throughout the City and have artists paint different themes on them. Current discussions involve a duck theme. The committee is continuing to reach out to downtown businesses. They are in support of façade grants and there was no negative feedback about dealing with the City.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

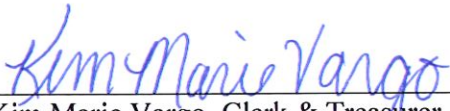
- We are waiting for steel delivery for the elevated tank project.
- We are working on bid documents for the sewer rehab project.
- The planning grant bid documentation was sent to RIA for approval.
- All easements have been agreed upon for the wastewater expansion project and bids should go out the middle of this month.
- We are waiting on SCDOT approval of the encroachment permit for the wayfinding signs.

Council thanked Lynn McEwen for her time with the City.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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