

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
April 7, 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: Interim City Administrator Tony Dicks, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Police Chief Michael Butts, PRT Director Tommy Elkins, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley

Stephanie Shavers with the People Sentinel was present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Alyssa Dluzak said she was in favor of the Duck Mural Project. She is also in favor of pulling up the crosswalk pavers around the Circle and laying down asphalt for aesthetic and safety reasons. She would like to see improvements to Fuller Park and Lemon Park for handicapped accommodation.

Ms. Dawn Stead was representing Barnwell County Healing Partners Coalition. The Coalition looks at community driven initiatives to address health disparities in the county. The physical activity committee has started walking groups throughout the county and is currently working on a guidebook that will list all the free outdoor activities in the county. She was here to show the Coalition's support for the Waddle and Wonder project and their interest in being a part of it.

Hermania Lynn Williams questioned why a lot of property owners living by the proposed housing development did not receive written notices of a meeting held last month. Mayor Still said the meeting was an informational meeting for Council not a public hearing, but the public was notified by a notice in the paper and on the City website. Councilmember Davis is trying to schedule a meeting with property owners and the developers.

Mr. James Roberts said he was against the proposed housing development.

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

Interim City Administrator Tony Dicks said the minutes were not available for the meeting and this will be put on next month's agenda.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-2 FAIR HOUSING

Interim City Administrator Tony Dicks read Resolution 2025-2 designating April 2025 as Fair Housing Month. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY REVISION

Police Chief Michael Butts said the proposed policy revision was recommended by the SC Criminal Justice Academy. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the revision. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE 2025 SUNDIAL FESTIVAL

Chief Butts said he showed the local SCDOT office the road closures that would be necessary for the requested parade route and carnival location. They told him to submit the request to Orangeburg, but they did not think it would be approved since it required closure of Hwy 278 and a one way street. Amy Davis said she had expanded the parade route this year to try to include more businesses, but she could change it back to last year's route. The current carnival location is the only location that is close to the Circle and the festivities. Cemetery Rd needs to be closed for the basketball tournament and food trucks. Discussion followed about routes, necessary law enforcement personnel, and overtime. Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the Sundial Festival's request pending approval by SCDOT. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

2025 CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX UPDATE

Administrator Dicks gave a recap of the remaining 2016 CPST funds, the 2025 CPST list, and the process of requesting 2025 funds. Mayor Still said funds are available for the first 7 projects. We hope to pay off the General Obligation Bonds for the fire station by April 15th.

APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE UPCOMING 2025-2026 FY BUDGET FOR THE BARNWELL COUNTY TNVR PROGRAM

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the request to include \$3,480 for the TNVR program in the upcoming budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley updated Council on the SCIIP grant projects. He said the 2016 CPST funds included sewer rehab on Jackson St. from Gilmore St. to the old hospital. There were not enough funds to complete the project so this section was included along with other areas in the Sewer Rehab SCIIP grant so the funds could be utilized. This job should go out for bids by July 1st. The water tank contractors are fabricating metal for the new water tank portion of the SCIIP grant. Bids for the SCAT Park SCIIP grant will be opened April 15th. RFQ's for the RIA Planning grant will be

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opened April 10th. He is currently working on applying for a SRF grant for 6 stationary generators for the wells and 9 permanent bypass pumps for the lift stations.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley said mosquito spraying will begin May 6th. He has ordered the street sweeper that will be paid with CPST funds.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – PRT Director Tommy Elkins said the trees at the parks have been cleaned up. He is currently getting the fields ready for baseball season. An Easter egg hunt will be held at Lemon Park on April 12th at 10am. Registration will open in May for tackle football, flag football, and volleyball. They are cleaning up around the Circle and getting the splash pad ready to reopen for the season.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Butts gave a report on monthly activity. It has been a busy month for calls. His department is fully staffed. CPST funds have been used to upgrade the camera system and door locks at the station and purchase three new vehicles with two more on order. He will purchase a sixth vehicle with funds allocated in the budget. They are working on the issues at Fuller Park.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Council was provided with a written report on monthly activity.

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 encroachment permits for the wayfinding signs have been expedited and the signs need some minor changes. A joint meeting will be set up with the PRT committee for the Waddle & Wonder program. SCDOT has offered to do a temporary refresh of the crosswalks on the Circle at no cost to the City until the City can get funding to do them properly. She recommends planning a public hearing to get the public's input. Discussion followed and no action was taken pending further information. PRT Director Tommy Elkins will begin giving reports for this committee.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

-The mosquito spraying schedule and splash pad hours of operation are listed on the City website.

-A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new kayak rental kiosk at Kilkenny Park will be held April 16th at 3 pm.

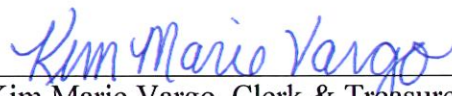
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-MASC has selected the City as a recipient of the 2025 MASC Achievement Award for the new fire station. A media crew will come in May to do a film story on the project that will be presented at the MASC annual meeting in July.

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