

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL**

**May 5, 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, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

**Councilmembers Absent:** Councilmember Ricky Dixon

**Others Present:** Interim City Administrator Tony Dicks, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo and Police Chief Michael Butts

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Harry Newton, Mr. Bennie Wiggins III, Mr. James Albert, and Mr. James Ford spoke against the proposed housing complex in their neighborhood. They did not want it built in their neighborhood and were concerned with flooding issues.

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Ms. Alyssa Dluzak said she would like to see the parks and sports more accessible for the handicapped. She would also like businesses to have entry ramps for wheelchair access.

Mr. Highsmith said he lives on Berry St and his house was flooded with sewage during the last storm. He wants something done about the flooding in the area.

Ms. Phyllis Rhody said she was concerned with healthcare, abandoned buildings on Marlboro Ave, and litter along Calhoun St.

#### **SWEARING IN NEW POLICE OFFICERS**

City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to Police Officer Robert Kirby.

#### **RETIREMENT RECOGNITION OF POLICE OFFICER MCGINNIS**

Police Chief Michael Butts recognized Officer McGinnis on his retirement. He thanked him for his service and presented him with a retirement badge.

#### **PRESENTATION OF FYE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AUDIT REPORT**

Mr. Jim McGuire of McGregor & Company presented the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 audited financial statements. He referred to the independent auditor's report and informed Council that there were no reportable findings. They found the financial statements were presently fairly in all material respects. He reviewed the financial highlights for the year. The General Fund had an increase in fund balance of \$444,536. The Water & Sewer Fund had an increase in net position of \$214,442. The net position in the Water and Sewer Fund includes deductions for depreciation and pension expenses. There was also a supplemental report on an Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement for CSLFRF funds. This was done in place of a single audit.

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

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2025, regular scheduled City Council meeting with a correction to committee members. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2025, REGULAR SCHEDULED  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2025, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2025, SPECIAL CALLED CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2025, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE UPFIT COST OF BUDGETING  
POLICE VEHICLE**

Interim Administrator Tony Dicks said that there was a deficit of approximately \$9,100 in the budgeted amount for a new police vehicle in the General Fund due to the cost of upfitting the vehicle. Capital Project Sales Tax and General Fund are available to cover the deficit. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the additional funding for the upfit of the police vehicle. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approve.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-2 "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF  
BARNWELL AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ALONG 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, TAX  
MAP #072-06-09-010, FROM R-7 TO RMF"**

Mr. Nathan Broman-Fulks with TMG Development shared some updates with Council. They have been exploring the possibilities of having the entrance somewhere other than 3<sup>rd</sup> St. They have been talking to Maple Glen Apartments about having a shared entrance. Also, LSCOG has supported them by giving them a letter of commitment for \$500,000 for the project. They have also been discussing a partnership with the Cumbee Center to set aside a couple of units for their clients. Councilmember Myers made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and approved 4 to 2, with Councilmembers Davis and Highsmith voting against the motion. Interim Administrator Tony Dicks read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-2. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers. Discussion followed. The motion was approved 4 to 2, with Councilmembers Davis and Highsmith voting against the motion.

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### **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Council received an update on the ongoing grants.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – The street sweeper has been delivered. Mosquito spraying will begin May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Independence Day Celebration will be held Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – This will be the last week for baseball. Registration for football, volleyball, and cheerleading will begin May 12<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Claytor asked for the fountain to be looked at.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Butts gave a report on monthly activity. They are working on the issues at Fuller Park and trucks on the Circle.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Council was provided with a written report on monthly activity. The used ladder truck was purchased with CPST funds and sent for equipment updates.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – A budget workshop needs to be scheduled.

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

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said a meeting with Healing Partners has been scheduled for this week. There are no Community Investment Funds available through Senator Hutto's office. She will be working with LSCOG for other funding sources.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

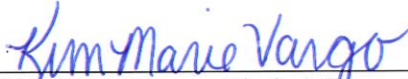
- The Sundial Festival will be held this weekend.
- Gave an update on CPST purchases.
- RIA has approved the Intent to Award the contract for the SCAT Park SCIIP Grant.

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**ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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