

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL

July 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, Clerk Paula Baxley, Public Works Director Philip Stanley, Police Captain James Thorpe Jr., and Lance Corporal Ryan Love

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alyssa Dluzak addressed concerns about the lack of accessibility for the handicap in Barnwell. She would like to make sure local businesses around Barnwell have handicap ramps. The main areas of concern are the downtown businesses. Mayor Still asked if she would get a list together. She would also like to see the parking lot of Fuller Park paved with

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025

smooth asphalt to ensure people in wheelchairs have better mobility. Mayor Still let her know the city will look into this, but this will take some time.

Ron Thiry, Senior VP for ST Paper, and Greg Brit introduced themselves. They plan to start operations at Barnwell Tissue Solutions in a couple of months. Councilmember Jana Myers asked if employees would need transportation to and from work because she has something in the works for community transportation. They didn't believe so but would keep this in mind.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2025, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2025, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE YARD DEBRIS PROPOSAL

The Good Ole' Boys Solid Waste Company owner met with City Administrator Dicks and Mayor Still on July 1, 2025 to discuss concerns presented last month. After informing the owner of concerns council raised about the previous proposal, they went a different direction. Good Ole' Boys will continue their effort to pick up all yard debris using both garbage truck and separate crew with a dump trailer and tractor on Thursdays. Interim Administrator Dicks offered to provide a public notice/education campaign through the city website, social media and the local newspaper on the guidelines of placing yard debris out for removal. Good Ole Boy's is also asking the residents to call city hall when they place yard debris by the road and then have city hall report that information to Good Ole' Boys every Wednesday at the close of business. This will assist Good Ole' Boys in locating and removing yard debris. The list would be in addition to the garbage crew seeing and noting debris piles when running the regular solid waste routes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Debris piles that fit within the desired 5x5x5 piles and nothing over 5 inches in diameter will be picked up with the garbage truck using manpower and hand tools. Non-compliant piles will be passed by that crew until the resident brings the pile into compliance. The trailer and tractor crew will address non-compliant piles currently existing in an effort to clean the city of them but will not service new non-compliant piles after the public notice and campaign begins. Once the existing non-compliant piles are removed the trailer and tractor crew will then work with the garbage truck crew to double team the removal of compliant piles weekly. Both the City of Barnwell and Good Ole' Boys will monitor the progress of this action plan and determine if it is succeeding or if another approach is necessary.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025

**CONSIDERATION OF JIMBO MOODY FOR RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE
BARNWELL COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION**

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to re-appoint Jimbo Moody to the Barnwell County Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers (Davis & Myers) – Public Works Director Philip Stanley gave an update.

- The piping and water tap for the new elevated storage tank has been installed.
- 80-90% of the metal prefabrication for the elevated storage tank has been completed and waiting on inspection so it can be delivered.
- Easement clearing for the SCAT Park force main has begun and is about 50% complete. The clearing should be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – The street sweeper is out and about to clean the streets.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – Councilmember Dixon gave an update from Tommy Elkins.

- Fall registration is open and will close on August 8, 2025.
- The baseball fields are locked.
- Planning a reptile show by Reptile 101 at Fuller Park July 23, 2025 and August 8, 2025 from 6-8PM.
- Tommy is looking into sports/activities for handicapped children.
- He thanked Amy Davis, Gary Brantley and everyone else that helped with the Independence Day celebration.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Captain Thorpe gave a report on monthly activity.

- Introduced Lance Corporal Love as the new code enforcement and animal control officer. The animal shelter will not take cats; they must go through TNVR for cats.
- Interviews have started for open positions.
- They are conducting more property checks and traffic control.
- Thorpe is working on speed signs.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Interim Administrator Tony Dicks gave a report on monthly activity. On July 10, 2025, there will be a 1% training program/class at 6:00PM.

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 is working on wayfinding signs and looking into the smart start business kit previous Administrator Lynn McEwen was working on. Councilmember Dixon asked about an update on the crosswalks. He and Councilmember Myers will discuss.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Fuller Park – Phase 1 Grant Project (west end of Main Street entrance) Finalizing an agreement with JLA to provide construction documents and bid packages for the Phase 1 Grant Project.

Budget – Dates are set for department head budget proposals with the Administrator and Treasurer July 14th – 15th in preparation for the Council Budget Workshop scheduled for July 21st.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss two items.

1. Pre-Contractual Negotiations – Potential Purchase of Real Property
2. Consideration of a Potential MOU and Contractual Agreement with Barnwell County School District

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to authorize Mayor Still to continue negotiations for potential purchase of real property. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Councilmember Myers made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to execute the agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and appointment of agent and contract with the Barnwell County School District (BCSD) and City of Barnwell, also to execute the work authorization with GHD Engineering Services for the new high school booster pump station and water main and the work authorization with GHD Engineering Services for the new high school wastewater pump station and force main as agent for Barnwell School District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025