

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
August 3, 2026, 5:30**

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, Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Wanda Highsmith and Jana Myers

Councilmember Absent: Richard Dixon

Others Present: Administrator David Holcomb, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk Allison S. Wade and Captain Thorpe

Johnathan Vickery Media was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Christain spoke about the annual 911 Memorial. She will begin to put the 2,978 flags out on August 5 at 2 p.m. She's asking for community participation and volunteers.

SOUTHERN PALMETTO CHAMBER VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS & PROGRAMS
ENTERICK LEE

Presenter Enterick Lee of the Southern Palmetto Chamber outlined the “Grown Spark Summit”, a two-day ticketed event focused on business, education, healthcare and housing. This event will be held on September 24-25 at Denmark Technical College. Tickets for non-members are \$40 and members \$30. Council was asked to consider sponsorship and/or ticket purchase. Mayor Still suggested sponsorship.

Councilmember Myers made a motion to sponsor the event in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000.00). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL'S FYE 9/30/2025 FINANACIAL AUDIT BY
Mc GREGOR & CO.

Annual financial audit highlights presented by McGregor & Co. Supplementary information reviewed with no issues noted. The city is in good shape with no significant long-term debt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2026, Special Called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

WAYFINDING SIGN POLICY AND SIGN MOCKUPS

Administrator revised the Wayfinding Sign Policy as discussed. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the Wayfinding Sign Policy. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Discussion followed regarding the Wayfinding Sign Mockups. Concerns were mentioned regarding the use of City funds and county entities remaining on the mockup. Remove county entity 1, 3, and

4 and highlight places in the city only. A committee approach was discussed. Administrator will prepare revisions prior to next meeting. The item was tabled to the August meeting to update working, consult DOT, and bring current mock-ups for approval.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL CONTINUING EDUCATION ALLOWANCE POLICY

Each elected council member will receive an annual \$1,500.00 (fifteen hundred dollars) continuing education allocation per adopted fiscal year in addition to the Municipal Association annual event. Funds are non-transferable. Unused amounts do not carry forward.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the Barnwell City Council Continuing Education Allowance Policy. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ACCUSATION OF ADA PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND FUNDING

Discussion requested by Councilperson Davis regarding the ADA playground equipment funding. The possibility of Hospitality funds could be considered the source of funding.

This allocation allows an additional \$60,000.00 (sixty thousand dollars) from the Hospitality Fund, to be combined with the existing \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollars). Total not to exceed \$110,000.00 (one hundred ten thousand dollars) for an initial inclusive playground layout from Cunningham Recreation. The design will be modular to allow future expansion via fundraising and/or future allocation.

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve accusation of ADA Playground Equipment and Funding. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith)

-Projects continue as planned.

-Bid openings scheduled for emergency bypass pumps and generators tomorrow. Two bid times at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Solid Waste and Maintenance (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith)

No Discussion

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Davis & Dixon)

- Flag football and volleyball drafts occurring this week; coaches will contact parents regarding practices. Rosters are out for tackle football and cheer. Follow up if you are not contacted.
- The Splash Pad is up and running after changing service providers and expediting services.

Police (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw)

- Chief Butts provided a detailed report regarding monthly department activities.
- First arrest under the 287 g Program completed; awaiting additional information to finalize paperwork before submitting for reimbursement.
- The Book Bag Giveaway was successful. One hundred families were served from the 350 bookbags donated by North Augusta Public Safety. Three supply packets were delivered to each school.
- Please slow down and be courteous for the back-to-school traffic. There will be no turns left out of the driveway.
- There will be active shooter drills in August and September in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office. Increased police presence during this time.

Fire (Councilmember Claytor and Highsmith)

- A detailed monthly activity report was presented.
- Clemson University Grant received in the amount of \$5,000.00 (Five thousand) for grain bin rescue equipment.
- Riley Fire Department wants the old fire truck back to place in museum. Department is considering returning it back.

Finance and Salary (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw) – No discussion

Building and Planning (Councilmember Claytor & Councilmember Myers)

- Discussion on gathering input; preference for a structured committee process rather than a broad public hearing to refine feasible concepts.
- Poll in newspaper.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmember Myers and Kinlaw)

- The material for the mural has been delivered. Installation is planned for Saturday with some questions on placement still under final review.
- An upcoming mural project may be in conversation at local newspaper site. A postcard style "Hey y'all, Welcome to the City of Barnwell", with each letter highlighting a county municipality designed to complement a future food truck area.
- Check on CPST (Capital Project Sales Tax) for deadline to funding.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Final demolition for the Bookworm is expected to be completed by next week. Ideas solicited for reuse of property.
- Palmetto Pride Grant application will be submitted mid-month. Typical grant supplies consist of bags, gloves, and grabbers. Trash cans are generally not covered.
- About 45 buildings identified for the Blight Program and 31 has no responses. Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) of grants funds have been used.
- When using communication via email, avoid using the reply to responses.
- Special Call meeting is scheduled for August 17th for the second reading of the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

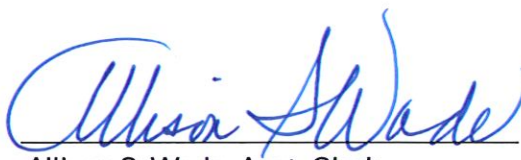
Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter Executive Session for Discussion of pre-contractual negotiations incident to proposed purchase of real property. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Allison S. Wade, Asst. Clerk