

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL May 4, 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, Ricky Dixon, Wanda Highsmith, Alicia Davis and Jana Myers

Councilmember Absent: NONE

Others Present: Administrator David Holcomb, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Allison S. Wade, and Chief Micheal Butts

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Councilmember Claytor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

Mayor Still announced that the Bookworm property has new ownership and stated that new the next step will be cleanup of the property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Christian announced that Barnwell will host its 7th Annual Sundial Festival beginning on Friday. The festival will feature several vendors and activities including a talent show, free concert, sock hop and a costume contest. All activities are free and open to the public.

UNITED WAY PROGRAM(S) UPDATE- STEPHANIE MEAD

Stephanie Mead provided an update on the programs and services available to residents in three neighboring counties who continue to experience the effects of Hurricane Helene.

She explained that the organization's goal is to establish an operating VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) in each county that currently lacks one. Ms. Mead requested that a council representative serve on the committee and requested financial support for United Way initiatives.

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

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith)

- The elevated water tank project has been completed. Logos have been installed, and electrical work is currently underway. The tank is expected to be operational by June 1st.
- Engineering work for the new high school water and sewer lines is nearing completion. Final plans are pending purchase of the remaining parcels of land.

Solid Waste and Maintenance (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith)

- Mosquito spraying will begin tomorrow. Residents may visit the City Website to determine their designated zone.
- Zones 1 and 3 will be sprayed tomorrow, and Zones 2 and 4 will be sprayed on Thursday.
- During the month of May, all zones will be sprayed weekly. Thereafter, spraying will occur biweekly.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Davis & Dixon)

- Registration for fall sports will be open from May 11 through July 24.
- Sports offerings include flag football, cheerleader and volleyball.
- The department is currently seeking volunteer coaches and encouraged interested individuals to register as soon as possible.
- Splash Pad Update: Replacement parts are expected to arrive May 5, and the splash pad is anticipated to be fully operational by May 8.
- The regular baseball and softball seasons are concluding. All-Stars games are expected to begin June 13th and continue for four to six days. Game scheduled at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
- Safety concerns at Collins Park were discussed. Council authorized the Administrator to obtain bids for repairs to the gazebo, lighting and brickwork.

Police (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw)

- Chief Butts provided a detailed report regarding monthly department activities.
- Driver training sessions are scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday.
- Barricades for the Sundial Festival will be installed Thursday afternoon.
- On Friday, traffic around the circle will be closed 7:00 am until 9:30 am for vendor setup.
- The circle will remain to all traffic from Friday 4:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Fire (Councilmember Claytor and Highsmith)

- A detailed monthly activity report was presented.
- The department completed its Host Handling Training and the regular scheduled meetings.
- On May 16th, the Barnwell Fire Department in conjunction with SRS Fire Department will hold a Smoke Alarm Blitz partnering with Statefarm, American Red Cross and Barnwell County.
- Additional training will consist of Harzardous Material Technician Water & Rescue Training and Area Operational Training.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmember Claytor & Councilmember Myers)- No discussion

- No meeting has been scheduled with Nathan Turner/ Sturre Engineering regarding the Turner Street property.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmember Myers and Kinlaw)

- Work on the mural is ongoing and installation is expected within the next few weeks.
- The committee requested repair estimates for Collins Park and downtown crosswalks prior to making funding.
- Policies to the Wayfinding Signs will be updated.
- Executive Session discussion name was corrected to reflect Dreams Home by Amy Nicole, LLC.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- All permits and approvals have been secured for the annual Sundial Festival, scheduled for May 8th – May 9th ending at 5pm.
- The City has received an increased number of calls following a recent People Sentinel article regarding the Blight Program.
- Students from Athens Montessori School made their annual stop in Barnwell as a part of a tourism related trip.
- Water bills are currently being mailed from Bamberg to see if we could get a better result for delivery.
- Council members were asked to indicate whether they plan to attend the Annual Municipal Association meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Davis and unanimously approved.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements between Barnwell Police Department and Homeland Security.
2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements within Administration.
3. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with Western SC Economic Development Partnership. (**Name was correction to Amy Nicole, LLC**)

(City Council may or may not act on items discussed during Executive Session)

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of Executive Session

1. Dixon made a motion to authorize the Chief to enter into an agreement with Homeland Security for the 287(g) Program. The motion was seconded by Mayor ProTem Kinlaw. A vote was taken and Councilperson Dixon, Claytor, Kinlaw, Myers and Mayor Still, voted in affirmative. The motion was approved 5-2. It was opposed by Councilmember Highsmith and Councilmember Davis.
2. Mayor ProTem Kinlaw made a motion to allow the Mayor and Administrator to enter Contract negotiation with Thomas A Dicks as a consultant. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Claytor.
3. Councilperson Claytor made a motion to enter Contract negotiation with Dream Home by Amy Nicole, LLC. The motion was seconded by Mayor ProTem Kinlaw.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:

Allison S. Wade, Asst. Clerk & Treasurer