

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
March 2, 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, Alicia Davis, Ricky Dixon and Jana Myers

Councilmember Absent: Wanda Highsmith

Others Present: Interim City Administrator Tony Dicks, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Allison S. Wade, Chief Michael Butts and Chief Phillip Delk

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

OATH OF OFFICE

Attorney Thomas Boulware swore in Allison T. Chavis and Billy Marty Creech, Jr. as new Police Officers with the Barnwell Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL FOR A LOT ALONG LAKE DRIVE (TAX MAP # 072-08-01-022) FROM R-15 TO OSP

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator Dicks read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

FIRST READING OF WATER & SEWER RATE AMENDMENT FOR SEPTIC TANK WASTE DISPOSAL FEES ORDINANCE 2026-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 4 SEPTIC TANK WASTE AT CITY TREATMENT PLANT, SECTION 32-183 DISPOSAL FEES TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN DIPOSAL FEES

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved. Administrator Dicks read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. Discussion followed on who will the increase impact. It was explained that there was no increase in fees within the past 15 years. Without this, the city will continue to lose money. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF LOWEST QUOTE FOR CITY HALL HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

Interim Administrator Dicks received three quotes for the replacement of the HVAC System. He received the lowest bid from Wade's Repair for \$27,500.00 (Twenty-seven thousand, five hundred). Councilmember Dixon made a motion for the Administrator to move forward with the lowest bid on the replacement of the HVAC Unit on the Administration Building. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Discussion followed regarding the warranty and hail guard option. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

POLICY FOR COUNCIL TRAINING, TRAVEL, AND MEMBERSHIP DUES

There was a discussion regarding travel by council members. Each council member was asked to bring their ideas on how to structure travel. The mayor offered a proposal regarding the travel expenses for each council member. This was taken as information only and will be discussed during budget time.

SOUTHEASTERN HOUSING FOUNDATION RECOMMENDATION

- Beth Overton gave an update on the Blight Program regarding the request to amend the contract to work with small commercial development.
- The amount for commercial building would be increased to \$8,000.00.
- Local contractors will be used for all work provided.
- An updated list will be provided of all condemned properties.
- April 18th Southeastern Annual Ramp Day- 25 ramps will be built in one day by volunteers.
- Rosemary Baptist Church in Williston will host a celebration dinner on April 17th and everyone is invited.
- This was taken as information only.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith)

- The welding is 99.9% complete on the Elevated Water Tank. The sandblasters and painters should be complete within the next month and half.
- City of Barnwell reapplied for the grant in March of this year after not receiving funding in September 2025. This grant would connect well 6 & 10 on Clinton Street. Also, it would improve fire flow and circulation for the town.

Solid Waste and Maintenance (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith)

- Spring is here and grass cutting has started. A mosquito spraying schedule is being worked on but until completed, please report any problem areas. Officially spraying in the neighborhood starts in April.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Davis & Dixon)

- Councilmember Davis provided a detailed report on monthly activities.
- Basketball has officially ending. Congratulations to the 11- 12-year-old boys coached by Haasan Williams for winning the basketball tournament in Williston.
- Steven Brown will hold a Hoop by a Dream Basketball Tournament on March 28-29, 2026. Ages range from 10-12, 13-15 and 16-Older. Please contact him directly for participation.
- Baseball will begin this week despite the uniform issue. Games will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Ceremony will be held this Friday.
- Carnival of Love will be held at Lemon Park. Must have at least 80 participants. Also, we are planning to have an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11th from 10-11. It is free to the public.

Police (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw)

- Chief Michael Butts provided a detailed report on monthly activities.
- The new officer has graduated from the academy on February 13th, and she is completing her FTO this week.
- Chief welcomed new officers Chavis and Creech.
- Chief gave a breakdown of reported issues on Reynolds and Galilee Road.

Fire (Councilmember Claytor and Highsmith)

- Chief Phillip Delk provided a detailed report on monthly activities.
- Equipment repairs for aging fleet
- Fire truck is scheduled for delivery May 2027

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

Building and Planning (Councilmember Claytor & Councilmember Myers)

- Administrator Dicks is waiting to set up a meeting with Nathan Sturre/ Sturre Engineering regarding the Turner Street property.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmember Myers and Kinlaw)

- Councilmember Myers asked about an update on the Wayfinding Signs. The \$2,000.00 contribution was lost because of the new fiscal year.
- At the Economic Development Institute, Councilmember Myers connected with an architectural group that has done work with MUSC. They are requesting a survey of Fuller Park highlighting the location of the bathrooms. North Charleston will provide photos of their handicapped bathroom setup for comparison.
- We received a Letter of Support from the Legislative Delegation and a small community group for MUSC to go along with the packet.
- Councilmember Myers also noted that Council may be testifying at the State House regarding getting more appropriation for inclusive funding.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- New computers have been installed by VC3 in the Police Dept, Water & Sewer and City Hall.
- Fuller Park grant continues to move forward. We hope to get an RFQ for the site work for where we would do the food truck court. The survey was completed by Webb Surveying.
- The vendor that completed the work for the primary school has agreed to meet our staff, JLA and the families regarding the special needs project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to enter into Executive Session for personnel discussions- Administration- City Administrator. The motion was seconded by ProTem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

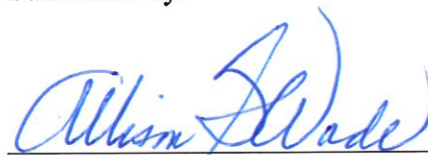
Mayor Still declared the Council was out of Executive Session

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Special Committee and Personnel Committee to offer the position of City Administrator to Candidate A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. A vote was taken and Councilperson Dixon, Claytor, Kinlaw and mayor Still, voted in affirmative. The motion was approved 4-2. It was opposed by Councilmember Myers and Councilmember Davis.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Allison S. Wade, Asst. Clerk & Treasurer