

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
January 5, 2026 – 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, 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 Phillip Delk

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS DISTRICTS 1, 3 AND 5**

Prior to the meeting, Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis and Ricky Dixon

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Phyllis Rhode inquired about a new charter school coming to Barnwell County. Asked about the process to get debris pickup.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2025, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

## **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM**

Councilmember Claytor nominated Councilmember Kinlaw, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dixon. Councilmember Davis nominated Councilmember Myers, and it was seconded by Councilmember Myers. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to close the nominations, and it was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. A vote was done, with the count showing Councilmember Kinlaw-4 votes and Councilmember Myers- 2 votes. Councilmember Kinlaw has been duly elected to serve 2 years as Mayor Pro Tem.

## **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **2026-2027**

Water & Sewer	Wanda Highsmith/ Louis Claytor
Sanitation & Streets (Solid Waste & Maintenance)	Alicia Davis/ Wanda Highsmith
Parks & Tourism	Ricky Dixon/ Alicia Davis
Police Department	Ricky Dixon/ Peggy Kinlaw
Fire Department	Louis Claytor/ Wanda Highsmith
Finance & Salary	Ricky Dixon/ Peggy Kinlaw
Building & Planning	Louis Claytor/ Jana Myers
Downtown Revitalization	Jana Myers/ Peggy Kinlaw

## **DOMINION ENERGY 2026 RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

Dominion Energy crews will be working in the local area trimming trees. A local representative will be available during this process. Information will be sent out to the public before any work is started.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026

### **AXIS 1, DIRECTOR PAM RUSH WITH AN UPDATE**

Director Rush shared information on drugs that are available on the streets and in the Vape Stores. These products are in the community and are in the local gas stations. They look like candy and are being packaged as such. Jermaine Galloway will offer training on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to educate individuals on the drugs that are in the neighborhoods.

### **CITY RECONITION PROGRAM PROPOSED GUIDELINES**

The City Administrator provided a proposed guideline to be used as an aid in recognizing individuals for the selection process. This guide is to be reviewed and changes can be made. Contact should be initiated within the week.

### **FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2026-01 AMENDING A STANDING COMMITTEE NAME SEC 22-55 (a) (4)**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw 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. Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO POLICE POLICY MANUAL PER SCCJA RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the amendments to the police policy manual. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

### **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

*Water and Sewer* (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Administrator Tony Dicks gave a detail report.

*Sanitation and Streets* (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Councilmember Davis requested that the debris pickup be publicized in the paper for the citizens in the community would have more knowledge of the process. The Council agreed to reach out to the Contractor, Good 'Ol Boys on January 6, 2026.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026

*Parks, Recreation and Tourism* (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – PRT Director Tommy Elkins provided a detailed report.

-Basketball started last week despite the issue of obtaining coaches. Games will be on Saturdays, and the official start day will be January 10<sup>th</sup>-February 28<sup>th</sup>. Two individuals have volunteered to be cheerleader coaches.

- The last week for baseball signups is January 6-7, 2026, from 5:30-7 at the Barnwell County Library.

-Planning for a dance for parents and children to come together. Also, looking to put together an event for a Recreation Program Golf Tournament Fundraiser.

*Police* (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) –Chief Michael Butts provided a detailed report of monthly activities.

*Fire* (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Chief Phillip Delk provided a detailed report of monthly activities.

*Finance and Salary* (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – No discussion

*Building and Planning* (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – No discussion

*Downtown Revitalization* (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Palmetto Styles will be getting a Coastal Design Mural placed on the side of the building near the post office. Two industries have agreed to fund the project, and this should be up and completed by Spring. Councilmember Dixon question if any bids had been received regarding the repair of the crosswalk on the Circle. The committee needs to meet and discuss proposals and costs.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

-Please register by January 8<sup>th</sup>, anyone that is interested in attending the Hometown Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

-Water and sewer grant projects continue. Boring under wetland of the Salkehatchie will start next week as well as Litchfield. The asphalt will be taken up and placed back in small sections in the Litchfield area. As a precaution, they are notifying the residents of their presence in those areas. Inspections are underway to determine the repairs that are needed for the SSES project.

-The Food Court Grant project is in the permitting stage with SCDOT tie in of the parking area to Cemetery Street and work with Dominion to extend the existing lighting at Fuller to the Food Court.

-The special needs parent group needs to meet to confirm some ideas based on recently installed equipment that was installed at the Barnwell Primary School. Also, Councilmember Myers has been communicating with North Charleston on a design for the restroom project.

-The HVAC system at City Hall has a leak in the system. This system has the oldest and most expensive generation of freon. Needs to discuss if it's more beneficial to replace it.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026

-Tile replacement will be done on the floor to the entrance of the back lobby and elevator floor of City Hall.

-A meeting will be called to discuss the cost and proposal of the project to replace the crosswalk and the Capital Project Sales Tax.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Precontractual Negotiations- Potential Purchase of Real Property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

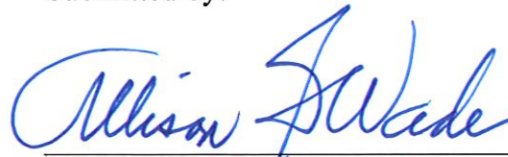
Mayor Still declared the Council was out of Executive Session

Councilmember Myers made a motion to make an offer for purchase of real property located at 51 Lee Street, Barnwell SC per the City Administrator's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

### **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