CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
October 5, 2026, 5:30

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in a Regular Called Meeting 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:	Councilmember Wanda Highsmith
Others Present:	City Administrator David Holcomb, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk Allison Wade, Philip Stanley, Tommy Elkins, Phillip Delk and Police Chief Michael Butts

The press was notified but no one was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ron Still called the meeting to order. Prayer was also led by Mayor Ron Still.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

MAYOR'S PRESENTATION & PROPOSAL FOR USE OF BOOKWORM PROJECT

The council was presented with a proposed downtown multipurpose tourism destination project. The Commons' primary purpose is to create a destination that gives visitors a reason to come visit Barnwell. Hospitality Funds will be funding source. Along with this proposal was the option to receive additional ideas from the public.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

A public statement from the previous meeting suggested code officers told a resident that Mayor Still sent them to his property on July 24, 2026. Code Enforcement statement noted that complaints are relayed anonymously from the town, that the responder did not know who made the complaint, and that when the resident asked if Administrator Holcomb sent them, the responder neither confirmed nor denied. Marty Creech (Animal Control) stated the resident was advised the complaint was anonymous. His account did not identify Mayor Still or Administrator Holcomb as the complaint source. A written statement from Chief Delk documented a call received from Administrator Holcomb regarding possible smoke in the Meadowbrook Subdivision near Hickory Street. On arrival, a small fire was observed. The homeowner admitted to no burn permit. In a record correction, the mayor emphasized the responsibility to correct the public record when allegation involves city officials and documentation does not support them while reiteration that grievances are valid but must not be present as fact without verification.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dixon and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2026, Special Called City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026, Special Called City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, Regular City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-7, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITY PURPOSE TO DOMINION ENERGY SC AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO".

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Claytor and unanimously approved. Administrator Holcomb read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-3 "AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE MONIES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BARNWELL AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY: ON THE PROJECT AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO."

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to read the resolution by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator Holcomb read the resolution by title only. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the final reading of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-4 "AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE MONIES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/ OR CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BARNWELL AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY: ON THE PROJECT AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO."

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the resolution by title only. The motion was seconded by Claytor and unanimously approved. Administrator Holcomb read the resolution by

title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the first reading of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

DONATION OF 1977 MACK LADDER TRUCK TO THE RALEIGH FIRE MUSEUM.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to donate the 1977 Mack Ladder Truck to the Raleigh Fire Museum. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

WAYFINDING SIGN UPDATE.

After discussions, Council will refine locations and content input for Phase 1 and beyond. This will include mentions covering all three entrances highlighting police, fire and downtown.

APPROVAL OF HOSPITALITY TAX GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the Hospitality Tax Grant Application for BBQ, Blues & Boos. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the Hospitality Tax Grant Application for Barnwell Sundial Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith)
-The SCAT Park Pump Station and 500,000 Gallon Elevated Water Tank is near to being completed.
-GHD has completed 90% of the engineering part of the high school two pump project.
-The emergency bypass pumps will start after the contract signing on October 20, 2026.

Solid Waste and Maintenance (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith)
-A shipment of trashcans arrived today, so you may see movement in your yards as they are being replaced.
- This is the last month of mosquito spraying that will take place in the month of October.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Davis & Dixon)
- Fall sports programs are underway with four weeks remaining except for tackle football.

-The Annual Trick-or-Treat Halloween Around the Circle is on October 31, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Food vendors will be on site.
- Sign-ups for upcoming basketball season is approaching. Anyone interested in coaching, please sign up.
-Splash pad will end October 31st.

Police (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw)
- Chief Butts provided a detailed report regarding monthly department activities.
-No update for the 287(g) Program.
-A report was provided for the usage of the Flock Camera System.
-The purchase of the new patrol car will go out for bids.
-Marty Ray Creech and Heather Still resigned from their position with the department. The department has a total of three available positions.

Fire (Councilmember Claytor and Highsmith)
- Chief Delk provided a detailed report regarding monthly department activities.
-Participation in active violence response training with law enforcement, EMS, and neighboring fire departments, and ongoing joint training exercises with SRS.
-We could not obtain the AFG Grant Award for the replacement of the air packs. However, we will try again next year.
-After assisting Barnwell County EMA/ Fire with the Creek Plantation Open House, a donation in the amount of $1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) was given to the Barnwell Fire Department.
-October is Fire Safety Month.

Finance and Salary (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw) **None**

Building and Planning (Councilmember Claytor & Councilmember Myers)
-Councilmember Myers asked about the maintenance of the ground once the property is taken down. Properties are not being maintained.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmember Myers and Kinlaw)
-Councilmember Myers asked for an update on the water fountain on the Circle. If it will be fully functional as it had been in the past with increased water pressure.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

-Reported that JLA will have bid openings for Fuller Park Phase 1 October 15 at 2:30 p.m.
-GHD will hold a preconstruction meeting on October 20, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.
-An update was provided for the CPST Funds as a guideline.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Davis made a motion to enter Executive Session for Legal opinion on threatened litigation and personnel administration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved. Mayor Ron Still and Administrator David Holcomb were not in attendance for Executive Session. (Note: City Council may or may not act on matters discussed)

Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw declared the Council was out of executive session.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion that the City Attorney endeavor to find an independent third party to informally interview the parties involved short formal investigatory process and report to council and compensation to be approved by council

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:

Allison S. Wade, Asst. Clerk