

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
July 6, 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 and Jana Myers

Councilmember Absent: Alicia Davis

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

Intern Kendal Warren, student at Missouri Western was present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

RECOGNITION OF THE BARNWELL ROOKIE ALL- STARS STATE CHAMPIONS

The Barnwell Rookie All- Star State Champions team and their coaches were recognized. They will be representing South Carolina in the World Series in Mississippi.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Willie Walker asked whether the city had funds to remove more dilapidated houses on Second Street. His family member owns some property that he wishes to have torn down. Mr. Walker was instructed to send the addresses and information to Administrator Holcomb.

Scott Neely/ Dominion was recognized for his contribution to the mural project and his ongoing community partnership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2026, Special Called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-5 AN ORDINANCE REVISING CONTRACTUAL DUTIES IN ARTICLE III. FLOOD DAMAGE PROTECTION, SECTIONS 6-425 AND ADOPT MAPPING EFFECTIVE JULY 21, 2026.

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith 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 Myers and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF WAYFINDING SIGN POLICY AND COMMITTEE SELECTION

Councilmember Claytor made a motion with the approval of the Wayfinding Sign Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon. Discussion followed regarding the Wayfinding Sign Policy and Committee. Concerns were mentioned about the number of members and the recent mock-ups. The item was tabled to the August meeting to update working, consult DOT, and bring current mock-ups for approval.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the Commercial Blight Elimination Program Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers. The discussion clarified these apply to commercial properties; residential process remains unchanged. Addressed handling where multiple building exists on a single property. After no further discussion, it was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ACCUSITION 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 discussion was postponed to next meeting for Councilperson Davis' input to specify the equipment request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith)

- Water main relocation on Marlboro Avenue to begin next week (DOT requirement).
- Force Main from SCAT Park has 200 feet remaining.
- The grant project for permanent generator and bypass pumps has been put out for bid. On August 4th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We will hold bid openings.

Solid Waste and Maintenance (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith)

- Mosquito spraying efforts will continue through the summer.
- Residents are urged to call with problems.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Davis & Dixon)

- Thanks to the community, vendors, city staff and Pyrotecnico Fireworks for the Forth of the July event.
- Basketball camp that will be held on July 13, 15, 17 and 18 is free to ages 4-12 will be held at Hagood Gym from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration will be held until Friday at City Hall.
- Fall sports registration for tackle/ flag football, cheer and volleyball deadline is July 24th. Volunteer coaches are welcome.
- The Splash Pad is currently down due to an issue related to the storm.
- The ADA compliance swing has been installed. We are asking the public to help maintain it.

Police (Councilmember Dixon and Kinlaw)

- Chief Butts provided a detailed report regarding monthly department activities.
- Every officer has completed the 287g training. Additionally, SLED and FEMA will hold an in- house and hands-on training July 21 and July 23.
- The Book Bag Giveaway will be held at Fuller Park on July 25. Setup will begin at 8 a.m. with the event 9:00 a.m. -1 p.m.

Fire (Councilmember Claytor and Highsmith)

- A detailed monthly activity report was presented.
- The department continues to train with SRS Fire Department. Additional smoke detectors were installed.
- Fire Engine 3 is in the shop for thermostat/ overheating issues.
- Administrator Holcomb rejoined the fire department as a volunteer, returning to his original badge number.

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

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

- Mayor have progress report on the recent removal of the WIIZ Radio Station and the old Napa Store on McDonal Drive, Renolds Road and Main Street.
- The asbestos abatement in the old Bookworm property is complete. Demolition will begin with the roof removal.

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmember Myers and Kinlaw)

- Ongoing discussion with a nursery to supply pottery and plants for the improvement of the mural. Alternative sourcing considered if needed.
- The mural is ready for delivery. We are waiting for the owner to decide whether to repaint the building before installation.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Anyone attending the MASC should have received the confirmations by now. An app has been provided by Russell Cox that will assist with event details.
- Met with Beth Overton- Blight Bright Program, and as of July 3rd, three structures have been removed.
- The Bookworm abatement is complete except for the roof. After the completion of that then the building will be torn down.
- The first reading of the budget is scheduled for Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Highsmith asked whether designated cooling stations exist for residents without adequate air conditioning. None were identified at present. City staff will explore options with the police department. Residents urged others to check on neighbors and, if needed, contact the city, police or fire for assistance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Dixon 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 Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

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