

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
February 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, Jana Myers and Wanda Highsmith

Councilmember Absent: NONE

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

Stephanie Shaver with the People Sentinel was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civility Pledge.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2026, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026, Regular Scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2026, Special Called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

**SECOND & FINAL 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 second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**FIRST 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 DIRVE (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 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 2026-02. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**ORDINANCE 2026-03 OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL FOR LOTS ALONG TUNRNER STREET (TAX MAP # 072-11-07-039, 072-11-07-041, 072-11-07-043) FROM R -15 TO RMF**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers. The motion was approved 6-1. It was opposed by Councilmember Highsmith. Administrator Dicks read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers. Discussion followed. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to withdraw the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03. The

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motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved. Councilmember Davis made a motion to postpone the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03 until the developer meets with Council with additional information. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**REQUEST FROM COUNCILWOMAN MYERS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO JOIN  
THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES**

Councilmember Myers said she was nominated to become a member of the National League of Cities. She is requesting that the city pay for her annual dues of \$981 for this year plus travel expense for her to attend a March 2026 conference in Washington DC. She believes this would be a good opportunity to bring rural community concerns to the table. Councilmember Myers made a motion to approve her request. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith. Discussion followed about the benefits and cost of the request. Councilmember Myers amended her motion to include that all costs for membership, conference, and travel may not exceed \$3,700. All costs above \$3,700 would be paid for by Councilmember Myers. She will also vacate her right to go to the MASC annual conference. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith. After further discussion, Councilmember Myers withdrew her request.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

*Water and Sewer* (Councilmembers Highsmith & Claytor) – All grants are moving forward.

*Sanitation and Streets* (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith) – No discussion

*Parks, Recreation and Tourism* (Councilmembers Dixon & Davis) – Councilmember Davis provided a detailed report of monthly activities.

- Basketball has only four weeks remaining.
- Baseball is starting tonight with practice and equipment pickup.
- The “Carnival of Love” Father/ Daughter and Mother/ Son Dance will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> 6p-8p at Lemon Park
- A benefit golf tournament will be held to aid in the sponsorship of the Barnwell and Williston Recreation Department.

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

- Chief thanked the County for aiding with calls during the funeral service for Former Sgt. Don Creech.
- SCCJA sent official notification that the police department passed its audit. They will return in 2 years.
- Seven applications were received for the two available positions. However, only two of the applicants showed up for testing.
- One officer will be graduating from the police academy on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

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-Scheduled a February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Police Committee.

*Fire* (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – Chief Phillip Delk provided a detailed report of monthly activities.

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

*Building and Planning* (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Councilmember Myers requested an update on the buildings that have been looked at with Safebuilt Code Enforcement and have been marked with any violations or condemned. Mayor Still has asked for an updated list of houses from Beth Overton for the Blight Program and a list of condemned houses from Joshua Thomas with Safebuilt.

*Downtown Revitalization* (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said a possible additional investor may provide funding for the mural that will be placed on the building near the post office. Now we are looking for a nursery to sponsor two palm trees.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

-Quotes are being received for the replacement for the HVAC System replacement.

-Grant projects are continuing as scheduled.

-The new server at City Hall has been installed.

-The update on the Fuller Park project is as follows. We met with JLA, SCDOT and Dominion Energy. SCDOT has asked us to provide a boundary survey. This survey will provide guidelines on what belongs to the City of Barnwell and what belongs to SCDOT. Webbs Surveying will be providing this service. Dominion Energy has offered to use the existing lights on a rental basis.

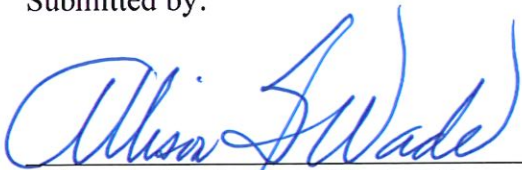
-JLA will be requesting RFQ's in March for the food truck area at Fuller Park.

-A vendor was found on State Contract for special needs playground equipment. I will meet with the special needs parent group.

### **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 & Treasurer

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