

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL

March 4, 2024 – 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, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, and PR&T Director Kevin Roberts

Ms. Alexandra Whitbeck from the People Sentinel was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Councilmember Davis led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve the agenda, The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER XAVIER TRUMPLER

Police Officer Xavier Trumpler was sworn in by Attorney Thomas Boulware.

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RESOLUTION 2024-2 APPRECIATION OF ROBERT LEE MILLER, SR.

Administrator McEwen read the resolution thanking Robert Miller for coming out of retirement to serve once again as Interim Police Chief and recognizing his years of public service. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved. Council thanked Mr. Miller as he accepted the resolution.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Nevaeh Kirkland, a Barnwell High School senior and author of The Coffee Shop Chronicles, was recognized as student of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

TNVR INFORMATION FROM BARBARA CHRISTIAN

Ms. Barbara Christian updated Council on the TNVR program. TNVR stands for trap-neuter-vaccinate-return. This program is a humane, nonlethal alternative to the old trap and kill method of managing the feral cat population. The program has reduced the number of cats having to be euthanized and going to the shelter. The program is run by volunteers. They are requesting funds from the county and municipalities. They are requesting the City include \$6,506 for the TNVR program in their upcoming budget. This was taken as information only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to enter into Executive Session for (1) Presentation of the provision of services from Retail Strategies which includes proprietary information and (2) Contractual discussion and negotiation of Master Services Agreement with new proposed engineering firm. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Mayor Still declared the Council was out of executive session.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2024, REGULAR
SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024, SPECIAL CALLED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024, special called City Council meeting with the addition that Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw seconded the motion made by Councilman Claytor to accept the City Administrator's recommendation for the GO Bonds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO SPEND \$5,000 THIS YEAR FOR THE CONTINUED RETAIL
STRATEGIES PROGRAM**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve spending \$5,000 to continue a second year with Retail Strategies. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO GIVE THE ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A
CONTRACT WITH THE NEW ENGINEERING FIRM**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to give the administrator authority to execute the Master Services Agreement for general engineering services with GHD Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

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**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-02 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING
CONSENT TO SPECTRUM SOUTHEAST, LLC’S APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE
FOR CABLE OR VIDEO SERVICE AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE”**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-02. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDED ARCHITECTURAL FIRM FOR FULLER
PARK PLANS**

City Administrator McEwen said two proposals were received from the RFP for landscape architectural firms to prepare a proposal for Fuller Park. The RFPs were reviewed by herself and PRT Director Kevin Roberts. They recommend using JLA, Johnson, Laschober & Associates, P.C., for the design services for Fuller Park. Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to contract with JLA. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claytor and unanimously approved.

CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX DISCUSSION OF NEEDS

Administrator McEwen provided Council with information on the Capital Projects Sales Tax and possible options for the City’s list of needs. She would like Council to look at the information closely for discussion at the special called meeting set for March 11, 2024.

APPROVAL OF A COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to approve creating a council committee for downtown revitalization. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Discussion followed. Councilmember Claytor said he did not think it was necessary for him to ask members of his district to be on another committee. Mayor Still explained that this was to create a standing committee of councilmembers not citizens. If approved, an ordinance will be necessary to update the standing committees in the code. Councilmember Davis asked Councilmember Myers if this is what she wanted since this was her vision. Councilmember Myers said she wanted an ad hoc committee originally, but the standing committee would be better to revitalize and maintain the downtown area. Mayor Still said the motion needed to be reworded. Councilmember Davis made a motion to amend the ordinance to create an additional standing committee for downtown revitalization. The motion was seconded by Councilmember

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Highsmith. The motion passed 5 to 1 with Councilmember Claytor voting against the motion. An ordinance to amend that section of the code will be prepared for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Davis) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Myers & Highsmith) – PR&T Director Kevin Roberts said basketball season will end Saturday and it has been a successful season. The next scheduled event will be the Easter Egg Hunt March 23rd at 10:00 at Lemon Park.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – Council received a written report from Police Chief Butts who could not be present.

Fire (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave a report on January activity. The concrete at the fire station was poured today. The ladder truck required more repairs.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Highsmith) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

-Provided a report from Southeastern Housing & Community Development on the Blight Program. They leveraged grant money with the City's ARPA contribution. Twelve homes have been demolished to date. Mayor thanked the county for giving a discount on the debris for this project. He also thanked Beth Overton from Southeastern Housing for her hard work.

-The bid opening for solid waste disposal is set for Friday, April 12th at 2:00 pm at City Hall.

-Asked Council to send her their short- term and long-term goals so she can put them together for the council workshop set for Monday, March 11th at 5:15. Capital Project Sales Tax and another budgetary issue will also be discussed at this meeting.

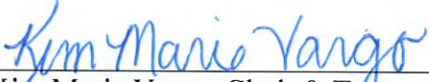
-Construction of the fire station is on schedule and they might be able to begin moving in equipment by June.

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ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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