

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
September 14, 2020 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812  
Live feed from Facebook Live for Public

**REGULAR SESSION**

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Rivera presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Billy Dozier, James Moody, and Robert Pattillo

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, and Police Chief Brian Johnson.

Mr. Jonathan Vickery of the People Sentinel was also present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Councilman Pattillo led in prayer.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**UPDATE ON THE BARNWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND COURT  
PROCEEDINGS**

Rhonda McElveen, Barnwell County Clerk of Court, updated Council on the status of the repairs to the courthouse. The repairs are being paid for with Capital Project Sales Tax revenue. In person court will start in October.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 3, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2020 special called Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY BINGO NIGHT ON OCTOBER 17TH BY MAYOR RIVERA AND COUNCILMAN MOODY**

Councilman Moody updated Council on last month's Community Movie Night. He said it was a big success. They now want to have a Community Bingo Night. Prizes will be donated, and they are just asking for one employee to help. Mayor Rivera stated that he believes it will be good for the community to get together. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the City sponsoring the Community Bingo Night. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT THE FALL SUNDIAL FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST FROM 9 AM – 4 PM, BY THE SUNDIAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

Mayor Rivera stated that even though this event had been approved earlier in the year, he asked for it to be placed on the agenda because of the Pandemic. Event coordinator Ashley Culp explained all the steps that will be taken to insure everyone's safety. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the request to conduct the Fall Sundial Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

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**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A SCARECROW CONTEST  
FUNDRAISER DURING OCTOBER, BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BARNWELL  
COUNTY**

Caroline Randall explained the event will be a fundraiser for the Rotary Club. Individuals or businesses can sponsor a scarecrow display in designated locations. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the request to conduct a scarecrow contest. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**DICUSSION AND DECISION ON TRICK OR TREAT ACTIVITIES FOR  
HALLOWEEN**

Mayor Rivera stated that the response he has received shows that most of the community wants to proceed with Halloween activities. Councilman Moody stated that he has received the same response from the citizens that he has spoken with. Administrator McEwen stated that she and Chief Johnson had discussed Halloween and agreed that trick or treating is a voluntary event and the City does not govern it other than setting the times for trick or treat. Mayor Rivera stated that the city will see an influx of traffic from surrounding towns who are not allowing trick or treating this year. Discussion followed about possibly changing the time, but Council agreed to stay with the usual time of 6 to 8 pm.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Mayor Rivera and Dozier) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Councilman Moody read a recap provided by Director Davis updating Council on a new employee, football, cheer and volleyball registration, park usage, and upcoming softball tournaments. Councilman Dozier updated Council on the splash pad progress. Seven contractors attended a preliminary meeting and site visit.

Police (Councilmen Dozier, Moody, and Mayor Rivera) – Chief Johnson informed Council that his request for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grant for mobile data terminals for police vehicles was denied. He will continue to look for more grant opportunities,

Fire (Councilmen Pattillo and Moody) – Chief Dicks updated Council on calls responded to by the fire department.

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Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Dozier) – No Report

**ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

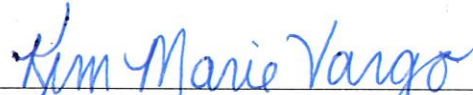
-We have received reimbursement funding of \$4,255.35 from the state for all COVID related supplies and prevention items that were purchased through June of this year. We have been approved for reimbursement for overtime and leave due to COVID. We have not received the funds yet but have requested over \$31,000. We will put in another request for qualified expenses after June, if the state will continue to allow reimbursement.

-The RIA grant application for the new well project has been sent in today. AECOM is also moving forward with the FAA application for the proposed location of a tank.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer