

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

MEETING LOCATION:

130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Video-taped (w/ wifi issues) and placed on Facebook City Page 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 Alicia Davis

Council Members Absent: Robert Pattillo

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Williams led in prayer.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS

Administrator McEwen stated that she had provided Council with the updated election results. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept as information. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER,
ALICIA DAVIS**

Mayor Rivera stated that the oath of office would be administered outside so that Ms. Davis' family could attend. City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Davis.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ethan Batchler – Mr Batchler wants to open a tattoo shop. Administrator McEwen told him that he would have to go through the City’s business office to check zoning.

UPDATE ON THE BARNWELL COUNTY EDC, TOMMY BOYLSTON

Mr. Boylston stated that Councilman Dozier is on the EDC Board and has been a great asset. Project BB – Pineview Building, a company that builds outdoor storage buildings will be using half of the old MK building in Blackville. They will be hiring around 55 people within the next five years. Cascades will be leasing the other half of the building for storage. EDC acquired ownership of that building last year through a foreclosure. Project Jam – Intelligent Life Cycle Solutions, an E Waste Recycling company moved into a building in Williston back in July that the EDC had ownership of. They will bring around 50 jobs as well. They are already in operation now. Project KBTD – this is a project in the Spec Building in Blackville. EDC has been told that they have made the final cut. The company has been looking at sites all over the Southeast and they have narrowed the choice down to eight sites and we are one of those eight. This has the possibility of bringing around 187 jobs to the area. However, the company has backed away from making the move for the time being. Project Beverage – an existing company in Williston has taken over the Colormarks building and has done some renovations to it. This will bring around 10 new jobs to the area. Dayco will be closing by the end of the year. The Sara Lee building, in Barnwell was sold to a company several years ago. That company struggled to get up and running but ended up in bankruptcy. The EDC holds the lien on that building and is in the process of getting the title back and will then market the building. Blackville Farmers Market has expanded. The EFCO building will be put on the market very soon. Mr. Boylston then discussed with Council how sites are selected by potential companies and what problems there may be that prevents companies from coming here.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular scheduled city council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

MOTION TO ACCEPT A CONTRACT WITH THE SCDNR FOR LAKE EDGAR BROWN

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept a contract with the SCDNR for Lake Edgar Brown. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Rivera and Dozier) – Director Stanley stated that the Grit Collector went down two months ago. We finally got the parts in and it should be finished tomorrow. The chlorine conversion at the treatment plant is on hold waiting on parts.

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – Director Stanley stated that they will start in the next two weeks edging and removing sand from all the curbing and sidewalks.

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Mayor Rivera stated that Pamela has done a great job with making sure we have fall sports. Administrator McEwen stated that the Christmas parade and tree lighting will be on the same day.

Police (Councilmen Dozier, Moody, and Mayor Rivera) – Coach updated Council on the stats for August. He stated that the Police Dept. received an award from Axis 1 for participating in the ECHO coalition. Traffic enforcement is down. Axis 1 donated flashlights to the department.

Fire (Councilmen Pattillo and Moody) – Chief Dicks updated Council on the condition of the ladder truck. It will need major repair to operate properly.

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

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Dozier) – Administrator McEwen discussed with Council the responder sheet for the Fuller Park Splash Pad

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

-Make a Difference Monday will begin again this month. We are meeting just off the 4-lane (Dunbarton Blvd) in front of Days Inn. We will be tackling the sidewalks up to Walmart (both sides if we get enough volunteers). Walmart has been doing an excellent job keeping Litchfield St clean.

-Now that we have the contract with SCDNR, we will be getting the trash receptacles placed out in the parking areas and designated areas around the lake. We hope that this will help in the litter problem.

-The Census is going to continue working to enumerate as many people as possible until October 31. They would also like to bring a table out to the Bingo event to try and encourage signing up people.

-We are still waiting on the RIA grant (November expected timeframe).

-We are also waiting on Municode to get back with us with the updated codes for two chapters that need to be corrected.

-The run-off election is tomorrow.

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Mayor Rivera stated that AT& T will be closing their store in Barnwell. JD Fashion also closed.

ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer