

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Billy Dozier, James Moody, Alicia Davis, and Peggy Kinlaw

Councilmembers Absent: Robert Pattillo

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City 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 and asked that the agenda be amended by postponing Item #5 – Employee Awards to another time. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams led in prayer.

**POLICE OFFICER'S OATH OF OFFICE**

City Attorney Tom Boulware administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Robert Davis.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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## COMMUNITY AWARDS

Mayor Rivera recognized several businesses and individuals for helping to fulfill the needs of the community

Carol's Florist  
Wangz on Main  
Timothy Sanders, Barnwell Caribbean  
Lisa Firmender, Generations Unlimited  
Andrew Bush, B&B Ford  
BJ Jordan, State Farm  
Daniel's Pharmacy  
Liz Ringus  
American Zinc Recycling  
Crissie Stapleton, Barnwell School District 45  
Housing Authority District No. 3  
IGA  
Walmart  
Jason Hasan, Cricket Wireless  
Randy Reece, Quality Septic  
Annie Walters, Save the Children  
Pamela McKnight, Axis I  
Chantsie Pickelsimer, YMCA

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 regular scheduled City Council meeting with the correction of adding that Councilwoman Peggy Kinlaw was present. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2021 BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the 2021 Barnwell City Council meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2021 ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the 2021 administrative and emergency services holiday schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF FIREMEN CHRISTMAS BONUSES**

Councilman Moody made a motion to approve the firemen's Christmas bonuses. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-01 TO ADOPT AND ENACT A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion that Ordinance 2021-01 "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE" be read by

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title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2021-01. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF AN LED CONVERSION CONTRACT WITH DOMINION ENERGY**

Administrator McEwen had given Council information from Dominion Energy about its conversion program from HID to LED lighting. Dominion is working with municipalities by offering a conversion contract with incentives since the LED lighting is currently more expensive. The 10-year contract has no upfront charges for the conversion and offers a reduced monthly rate for the LED lighting for the first 5 years. During the first 5 years the City will save approximately \$500 per month. The incentives are only offered for the first 5 years because after that time the LED charges are expected to be lower or remain the same while charges for HID lighting are expected to continue to increase. LED is better quality lighting but is different from HID lighting. The change will be noticeable, and some citizens may take a while to get used to it. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the LED Conversion contract with Dominion Energy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier) – Councilman Moody asked what needed to be done to get the grass cut at the old Sara Lee plant. Administrator McEwen reminded Council that Mr. Tommy Boyleston with Economic Development had stated that the EDC was in the process of taking the building back over and will be getting the grass taken care of. She will get in touch with him and ask him to have the grass cut.

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Administrator McEwen stated that so far, we have only received one application for the Recreation Director position.

Police (Councilmembers Kinlaw, Moody, and Davis) – Police Chief Brian Johnson informed Council that one of the 2014 Dodge Chargers is out of service. The cost of fixing it is more than the vehicle is worth so it will be used for spare parts.

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Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Moody) – Council received a written report of November activities. Mayor Rivera stated that Council had a very productive meeting with Fire Chief Dicks and the firemen.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis) – No Report

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

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- The sitework is moving forward at Fuller Park. They will begin moving fill dirt tomorrow. We will put signs up at the park next week stating that the 1% Capital Project Sales Tax and a PARD grant is funding this project. The equipment has been ordered for the playground, splashpad and restroom.
- Since approval of the grant from RIA for the well, the county council has moved forward with the first and second reading (which is being done tonight) on the sale of the 1.45 acres we will need to purchase from them. I am moving forward with getting the plat, survey and appraisal done for the final reading in January.
- Make a Difference Monday was held virtually this week. I am hoping to see some photos soon.
- MASC has some virtual training opportunities in January. Contact Kim if you would like to register for any training.
- I have added a memo from the county administrator for your reference regarding the portion of Main Street in front of our building. It explains the issue of ownership and why SCDOT has not paved it and how they plan to correct this so that it can be paved in the future.
- I will be applying for a Palmetto Pride Grant for about \$4,000 to add trash receptacles to Fuller Park to go along with the amenities we are now working on.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION- PERSONNEL SALARIES**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

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Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to adjust salaries in the Fire and Police Departments based on the recommendations of the City Administrator. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN**

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

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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