

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
January 4, 2016– 6:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

**REGULAR SESSION**

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Edward Lemon presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Edward Lemon, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Benjamin Duncan, W.C. Black, Steve Walling, Robert Pattillo and Billy Dozier

Others Present: City Administrator John Zawacki, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Police Chief Reuben Black, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, and Recreation Director Mike Shumaker

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lemon called the meeting to order and led with a prayer.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

**OATH OF OFFICE OF MAYOR AND 3 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Lemon and Councilmen Steve Walling, W.C. Black and Pickens Williams Sr.

Mayor Lemon stated that we needed to elect a Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Black made a motion to nominate Councilman Williams as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2015 REGULAR  
SCHEDULED BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL FOR PILOT PROGRAM FOR RADIO WATER METERS**

Administrator Zawacki explained to Council that currently each water meter has its own meter sheet which are grouped into 12 books. Each meter is read manually with the meter reader marking the sheets physically with a pencil. The City has about 2,400 meters and it takes five people three days to read them. We would like to try a pilot program with an automated radio system for 25 meters. The data that is in the meter books would be put into a hand held device. The readings for the 25 meters equipped with the radio device in the pilot program will be automatically recorded as the meter reader walks by. The readings for the other meters will be manually put into the hand held device. The data will then be uploaded directly into the billing system to generate the monthly bills. The billing clerk, who usually takes 3 days to input the readings manually into the system, will only have to review the bills. Wagener and Williston are currently reading their meters remotely. It would be too expensive to replace all of the meters at one time. The program is set up so that we can add as many as we want to the system each year to be read remotely and still use the hand held to manually read the other meters. The pilot program for 25 meters and the necessary equipment and training will cost around \$10,000. If we decide it is too expensive to go with the automated meters we can still use 3 hand held devices and do away with the books. Councilman Pattillo made a motion to authorize the pilot program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC WORKS FEE**

City Clerk & Treasurer Vargo explained to Council that with the additional supplemental check from SCE&G for the increase in the franchise fee, we could stop the public works fee effective December 31, 2015 and still have the money to cover the purchase of the three new police cars. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to do an ordinance to end the public works fee effective December 31, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- Orchid's 12 inch water line project has been completed and we are waiting on the permit to operate from DHEC.
- The first conversion line at Orchid's is in place. It will have power this week and it should be running by month's end. The final drawings and specifications for the lift station will be sent to

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the necessary agencies in January for their approval. Updated Council on the timetable for the project.

- Updated Council on possible funding for upgrading the digester at the WWTP. The digester needs to be upgraded from 80,000 gallons to 250,000 gallons. The estimated cost is between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

-The old WWTP plant that has been on standby for the last twelve years is up and running alongside the new plant. This will assure ample capacity for the Orchids plant and any future companies.

-The annual DHEC inspections for the certified lab and the potable water system both came back satisfactory.

- Burger King is now open

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmen Black and Dozier) - No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Walling) - No Report

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Pattillo and Walling) – Recreation Director Mike Shumaker recognized Gary Brantley for the services he provides to Parks and Recreation for the football program. The Mayor and Council added their thanks.

Shumaker updated Council on his department's programs.

Director Shumaker informed Council of his resignation. He accepted another job. Council thanked Director Shumaker for all of his hard work.

Police (Councilmen Black and Duncan) – Police Chief Reuben Black updated Council on the number and types of calls made by his department for the year.

Chief Black explained to Council that in the past there has been two Captains in his department- an Administrative Captain and an Enforcement Captain. To streamline the police department and make it more effective he promoted Captain Wayne Martin to Major. This position is in line right below Police Chief and it gives a clear and defined second in command.

Black informed Council on problems with using the firing range at the county landfill on Reynolds Rd and the possibility of putting a firing range at the WWTP. Administrator Zawacki stated that building a firing range could be done very cost effectively.

Councilman Duncan asked about the litter problem in the City. Chief Black stated that the Sheriff has a litter control officer and we have asked them to pick up the litter in some of the problem areas in the City.

Fire (Councilmen Duncan and Walling) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks updated Council on the testing of the aerial ladder and ground ladders and the Assistance to Fire Fighters grant applications.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmen Black and Dozier) – No Report

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Community Development & Tourism (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – No Report

**ADJOURN**

Councilman Walling made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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