

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
January 9, 2017– 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, Robert Pattillo, Steve Walling 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, Recreation Director Pamela Davis, and Community Development Director Lynn McEwen

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

POLICE OFFICER'S OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Lemon administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Shawn Anthony Howze Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2016 REGULAR
SCHEDULED BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2016 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

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**APPOINTMENT OF CITY OF BARNWELL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
BARNWELL COUNTY EDC**

Will Lemon is the current City representative for the Barnwell County EDC. Mayor Lemon explained that Will felt he could no longer fulfill this obligation because of his job duties. Mr. Joe Smith has expressed an interest in the position. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to appoint Joe Smith as the City representative to the EDC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$5,000 FROM BARNWELL COUNTY FOR A RETAIL
STUDY OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL**

This matter was tabled until the next meeting pending more information.

**APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY
OF BARNWELL AND THE BARNWELL COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**

Mayor Lemon read the memorandum of understanding with the Barnwell County Public Defender's Office to provide representation of indigents charged with municipal violations. The new agreement will be at the same rate of \$400 per case and be for a period of one year until January 1, 2018. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

INTEREST IN APPLYING FOR A MOSQUITO CONTROL GRANT

Administrator Zawacki informed Council that DHEC has sent out a notice that they have \$540,000 in available funds to award to municipalities who want to start a mosquito control program. If Council would like to start a mosquito control program, the City would apply for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to \$40,000 to get the necessary equipment and to train three employees to operate the equipment. Discussion followed. Councilman Black made a motion to apply for the mosquito control grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

**PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING CITY OF BARNWELL SCHOOL CHOICE
WEEK**

Mayor Lemon read a proclamation recognizing January 22-28, 2017 as School Choice Week.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Gave Council an update on the progress of the lift station for Orchids. AT&T will remove their fiber cable from the City's easement.
- DHEC still has not issued a construction permit for Orchids pretreatment facility so this may push them back a few weeks from starting to discharge to the WWTP.
- The fountain on the Circle has a crack forming on the pond wall allowing water to flood the Circle. It will be repaired as soon as the weather cooperates.
- Gave Council the first draft drawing of how the new public safety building could be built on City property on Burr St. and Washington St. The draft proposal utilizes a three phase building design. Phase 1A would be the construction of the new police department building. Phase 1B would demolish the existing police administration building and build the fire truck bays. The fire station would be constructed last during Phase 2 and would require some demolition of the existing building. We need to acquire the vacant lot that adjoins our Burr St. property. Chief Black and Chief Dicks have given the architect their comments on this first phase and we will meet with Tilden next week to go over the Chiefs' comments. Tilden will then put together a cost estimate for each phase of the project and provide an artist conception of what the building might look like. This will be given to the building committee for their comments prior to placing it on the agenda for approval to proceed to do the bid documents.
- Gave Council a quote from Collins Controls to install 6 sewer lift stations onto the existing SCADA system that is used to operate the wells. DHEC is getting very strict on municipalities who have sewage overflows. This system would be the City's insurance that we will always meet DHEC guidelines. This is for information only at this time and I would think that we would request funding for this system in August. I am also working with FEMA to try to get funding for generators at each of the lift stations in case of a power outage.
- Updated Council on an eight inch water main break on 278 in front of Joey Zorn. Williston came down with their leak detector and found the leak for us. Also, at the WWTP, the lower section of the basement in the old processing system was flooded to the roof. There was a broken pipe under the concrete pad. When we turned on the new system, the switch gear caught on fire. We have an electrician coming in to give us an estimate on the cost for repairs. We have filed a claim with the insurance company.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams asked about SCE&G not running power to the Orchids Plant. Administrator Zawacki stated that if the City will build the pad for the transformer, SCE&G had agreed to run the power lines. We are in the process of getting bids to build a pad.

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) –Director Pamela Davis updated Council on the candy cane hunt, the upcoming program guide, and new events. One of the new

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events she has been working on with SC DNR and SCA Promotion is a tagged fishing derby. Fifteen tagged fish would be placed in Lake Edgar Brown with a chance to win a grand prize of \$10,000. The City would purchase an insurance policy for \$1,525 to pay this if the grand prize fish is caught. There would be three other prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place through sponsors that the City would have to obtain. She asked Council if they had any objections to the fishing derby. There were no objections.

Police (Councilmen Black and Duncan) – Police Chief Reuben Black updated Council on the activities in his department for the month of December. Officer Gantt was the Officer of the Month.

Fire (Councilmen Duncan and Walling) – No Report

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

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

Community Development & Tourism (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – Director Lynn McEwen informed Council that the \$7,300 Palmetto Pride Grant will be used to redo the landscaping on the islands around the Circle. Council discussed the options for placing a Christmas tree on the Circle permanently. No decision was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session for legal opinion on a proposed county ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session. Councilman Black made a motion to have the City Attorney proceed to seek the Attorney General's legal opinion on the proposed county ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer