

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
March 6, 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, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, Police Captain Brian Johnson, Recreation Director Pamela Davis, WWTP Operator in Charge Philip Stanley, 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 John Zorn III.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Crystal Williams with Carolina United Programs spoke with Council. The organization is a temporary federal grant agency trying to reach survivors of Hurricane Matthew about available resources to help with any damage from the hurricane. They have an office at the Polly Best Center with office hours from 8:30-5:00.

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PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 CITY OF BARNWELL AUDIT, MEGREGOR & COMPANY

Mr. Jim McGuire of McGregor & Company presented Council with the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 financial statements. He referred to the independent auditor's report and informed Council that there were no findings and in their opinion the financial statements were presently fairly in all material respects. This is what is referred to as a clean audit. He explained the Management's Discussion and Analysis section and recommended that Council read this section for an overview of the financial activities for the year. He then reviewed the various sections of the statements with Council. The General Fund had a decrease in fund balance of \$11,057 which was less than the budgeted decrease of \$89,205. The Water & Sewer Fund had a decrease in net position of \$185,795 including depreciation expense of \$646,971. Mayor Lemon thanked him for his presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Walling made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and the EDC. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2017 REGULAR SCHEDULED BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ON NAMING A STREET IN HONOR OF JAMES BROWN

Mayor Lemon stated that he received a letter requesting that a street in Barnwell be named after James Brown since Mr. Brown, one of the music industry's greatest artists, was born in Barnwell. He said that Mr. Brown did a lot for Barnwell and he was one of the most famous people to come from Barnwell. The Mayor suggested changing Ellenton St. from Dunbarton Blvd to Joey Zorn Blvd to James Brown Way. A public hearing on the possible change was scheduled for April 3rd at 6:15 p.m.

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DISCUSSION ON CUMBEE CENTER REQUEST FOR A \$10,000 DONATION FROM THE CITY

City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo updated Council on a request from the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons for a \$10,000 donation from the Victim Assistance Funds. The money would be used to help fund an additional part-time counselor for services to victims whose lives are traumatized by the violence they have suffered. Ms. Vargo stated that the money in this account comes from court assessments and surcharges from fines and can only be used for crime victim services. The account currently has a balance of \$72,000. SOVA, the State Office of Victim Assistance, oversees the use of these funds. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the request from the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons for a \$10,000 donation from the Victim's Assistance Fund subject to the provision that the funding request meets SOVA guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilman Black voting against the motion.

DISCUSSION ON BOY SCOUTS REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE YAMASEE DISTRICT FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN

Mayor Lemon stated that the City did not have an account for this kind of donation. It was taken as information only.

RECREATION AND PARKS RECOMMENDATION TO THE BBA REQUEST FOR A LOWER BASEBALL PARK FEE

Councilman Walling stated that the recreation committee met and discussed reducing the fee charged to the Baseball Association for the Lemon Park Sports Complex from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Councilman Walling made a motion to reduce the fee to \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilman Black voting against the motion.

DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUNTY WIDE CHRISTMAS PARADE

A meeting on the subject was held by Ms. Ann Pernell from Blackville and Ms. Lisa Still from Snellings on February 20th to discuss the pros and cons of a county wide Christmas parade. Ms. Lynn McEwen stated that she was not able to attend. Another meeting will be scheduled. This was presented to Council as information only.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Administrator Zawacki showed Council a slide presentation of the new lift station for Orchids. The force main is 100% complete. The lift station is about 85% complete. The entire project will be completed by March 27th.
- We expect to have a response on our mosquito grant application by the middle of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmen Black and Dozier) – WWTP Operator in Charge Philip Stanley updated Council on activities at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the month of February.

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 Basketball All Stars, Daddy Daughter Dance, Crochet Class, Labon Joye Baseball Camp and other upcoming events.

Police (Councilmen Black and Duncan) – Captain Brian Johnson introduced Council to new police officer Juilo Hernandez.

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 invited Council to the annual meeting for the Development Association to be held at Common Grounds on March 7th from 8:00 to 9:00.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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