

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL and PUBLIC HEARING
May 1, 2017– 6:30 PM**

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 and Robert Pattillo

Council Members Absent: 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, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Roger Riley came before Council as the captain of his neighborhood crime watch in the Meadowbrook area. Speeding is a big problem and they wanted to place speed bumps in the neighborhood. He went to Interim Police Chief Brian Johnson. Chief Johnson checked with the local SCDOT and was told this could not be done. Mr. Riley did some research because there are speed bumps on state maintained roads in other municipalities. He found out that the municipality must make the request. On behalf of his neighborhood, he asked Council to do the steps necessary to get speed bumps placed in the neighborhood.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

Mr. Riley also spoke as head of Emergency Management. He wanted to thank Council for allowing Fire Chief Tony Dicks to help in the EOC during the severe weather on April 5th. He said Chief Dicks is always willing to help and does an excellent job.

Ms. Mary Jo Dawson spoke on behalf of the Library Board of Trustees. They wanted to thank Council for considering the issue of young people on the Circle on Friday afternoons. The library has been having issues with it since they have moved to the Circle and it has become progressively worse. They realize that it is not an easy issue to solve and they are grateful the City is looking for a solution. They would like to be involved and help in anyway so that people will return to the library on Fridays.

Mr. Al Jenkins is the new Regional Director for Senator Tim Scott. He just wanted to introduce himself and make himself available to Council. He gave Council his contact information.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2017 REGULAR SCHEDULED
BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2017 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 24, 2017 SPECIAL CALLED
BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2017 special called Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ON COMPLAINTS OF CHILDREN IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA ON
FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

The City had asked the downtown businesses to fill out a survey to address the on-going complaints on children in the downtown area during the afternoon. Administrator Zawacki had given Council a copy of the completed surveys for their review. Community Development Director Lynn McEwen stated that the City had sent a letter to the schools at the beginning of the

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

school year to make an announcement to the students about proper behavior expected on the Circle. The behavior is getting worse as the school year is coming to an end. The surveys show that the children have an overwhelmingly negative affect on the businesses. Some of them are even closing on Friday afternoons. Discussion followed on workable solutions. Mayor Lemon suggested hiring a teacher after school to stay on the Circle to deter the unruly behavior. Administrator Zawacki said that the City has been having two off duty police officers on the Circle on Friday afternoons between 3:00 and 5:00. He also stated that one of the churches has started coming out on Friday with drinks and food to try to keep the children in check. Mayor Pro Tem Williams said he was told that the children run back and forth across the street and he is worried that someone will get hit. Councilman Walling asked if they could be given a jaywalking warning if they are not using the crosswalks. Administrator Zawacki said we do not have any jaywalking ordinances. Mayor Lemon suggested a public disturbance warning. Administrator Zawacki said he would talk with Interim Police Chief Johnson to see what is in the ordinance. Mayor Lemon said that in the meantime, since school is almost out, the City would continue with having off duty police officers on Friday and consider the possibility of hiring an off-duty school teacher.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Administrator Zawacki, Councilman Black, Councilman Dozier, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, and Interim Police Chief Johnson have been researching the location and the design for the building. The number one consideration is that the building should last a minimum of forty years and have room for expansion. Another consideration is that the fire department should have adequate egress to the rest of the City and respond to 90% of their calls within five minutes 20 seconds to maintain their current ISO rating. Five potential locations were discussed. Administrator Zawacki said that they were asking Council to give them the ability to negotiate and move forward to determine which of these options to bring to Council for approval and try to get a budget. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to allow the building committee and the others to proceed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Orchids lift station has been tested and is completely operational. We are still waiting on reimbursement from the EDA grant. The contractor has submitted a change request for additional work due to AT&T intruding on our certified easement. The total cost of the change order is \$27,000 and we have made a request to AT&T for reimbursement.
- The SC Hazard Mitigation Group will review our recovery grant for Hurricane Matthew to install five emergency generators and to place our lift stations on the SCADA system
- Still no information from DHEC on the mosquito grant awards.
- Construction of the Barnwell Solar LLC solar farm is almost finished and they are hoping for a June startup.
- An air handling unit on the 2nd floor of City Hall lost freon and froze up. When it thawed out, all of the water went under the floor tiles. Repairs will cost \$2,680.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

-There are two buildings in the core business area that need repair or need to be taken down. We will be sending letters to the owners.

-I will be having a meeting with the Orchids plant manager about the Rural Development Partnership donation. They have given approval to give the City \$75,000 for fire equipment. Orchids wants to give the rest of the money to Denmark Tech to train electricians but I am going to request another \$15,000 for additional fire equipment needed for the Orchids plant.

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 Pamela Davis updated Council on the recreation programs from the last month including crochet class, Bunny Brunch, and the Easter Egg Hunt. The basketball courts are being resurfaced with PARD grant funds. The installation of the LPSC scoreboard purchased with PARD grant funds is completed. Received a \$500 grant from Ag South for advertising for the Farmers Market which will open May 30th on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 2pm. Updated Council on the final plans for the \$10,000 Fishing Derby scheduled for May 13th.

Police (Councilmen Black and Duncan) – Interim Police Chief Brian Johnson informed Council that the police department is fully staffed with the hiring of Officer Bozard this 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 updated Council on the Spring Fling and the Pick Up with Pride held in April.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and for a legal opinion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept the City Administrator's recommendation to not pay vacation pay for employee A. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017