

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
May 7, 2018– 5:30PM**

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., Harris T. Barker, W.C. Black, Robert Pattillo, Billy Dozier, and Steve Walling

Others Present: City Administrator John Zawacki, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Police Chief Brian Johnson, Director of Public Works Philip Stanley, and Community and Development Director Lynn McEwen

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lemon called the meeting to order. Councilman Barker led in prayer.

**POLICE OFFICER'S OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Lemon administered the Oath of Office to Police Officers Robert Seith Bryan and Noah Villalobos.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sam Plexico – Mr. Plexico, from J. Sam Plexico & Associates LLC, informed Council that there would be no rate increases to medical or dental insurance premiums for the City's July 1, 2018 renewal with BCBS of SC. The only change in the plan will be an increase in the Maximum Out of Pocket from \$7,150/\$13,700 to \$7,350/\$14,700. These amounts are indexed for inflation every year by the federal government per the Affordable Care Act.

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## **MCDONALD LAW UPDATE ON THE POLICE BUILDING**

Mr. Tilden Hilderbrand and Mr. McDonald Law presented Council with the updated schematic design and floor plan for the new police department building. Access to the site was revised to obtain SCDOT approval. The evidence building, which was a separate building in the original layout, is now connected to the main building. There will be no mechanical units in the tower. The mechanical units will be on the roof and the roof style was changed to hide the units. The building committee commended them for the work they have done.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2018 REGULAR SCHEDULED BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2018 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

## **RESOLUTION 2018-2 MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

Mayor Lemon read a resolution declaring May 6-12, 2018, as Municipal Clerks Week in South Carolina and recognizing Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo for the valuable contribution she makes to the City. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

## **PROCLAMATION MAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

Mayor Lemon read and signed a proclamation proclaiming May 2018 as Mental Health Month that called upon everyone to recommit the community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health.

## **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON LEROY WILLIAMS REQUEST FOR A CITY WATER SYSTEM**

Mr. Leroy Williams, owner of Marlboro Estates, asked the City to run individual water lines to each unit in the mobile home park. Currently there is one master meter at the entrance of the park that feed all the units. Leaks and wasteful water use are creating a high bill. The water and

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sewer committee met with Administrator Zawacki and Director of Public Works Philip Stanley to review the request. The estimated cost to run the lines on his property would be \$30,000. Their recommendation was to send Mr. Williams a letter denying the request but offering two options. The City could put in a meter bank at the entrance of the park for individual meters for each home provided Mr. Williams paid the cost of the project. Mr. Williams would then be responsible for running the individual lines to the homes. The other option would be for Mr. Williams to purchase and install meters by each home, so he could monitor the water usage and charge them accordingly. Administrator Zawacki informed Council that all the other mobile home parks have one master meter and have put in their own individual meters for their own use. Councilman Dozier made a motion to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

### **JAMES WILLIAMS, MUSEUM BOARD**

Mr. James Williams with the Barnwell County Museum updated Council on the progress of the renovation of the old police hut. There is extensive termite and water damage and it is not feasible to refurbish it. They have the original plans and it may be better to rebuild it with salvaged parts from the old structure. The museum board will be meeting on Tuesday night and Mr. Williams was going to recommend to the board that they give the hut back to the City and let the City decide what to do with it. If the City accepts the hut, the museum will not need the \$7,500 the City budgeted to give them for its refurbishment. Mr. Williams requested the \$5,000 the City budgeted for the operation of the museum. They will use the money to purchase two new dehumidifier, make other repairs, and help with a fundraiser.

### **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2018-2 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the Ordinance 2018-2 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III. FLOOD DAMAGE PROTECTION, SECTIONS 6-425 ET AL BY RELACING IT WITH LANGUAGE FROM THE UPDATED STATE MODEL ORDINANCE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES” by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved. Administrator Zawacki read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2018-2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

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## ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- We will be monitoring water pressure along Joey Zorn Blvd due to low water pressure complaints.
- Rose St tank project should be completed by the end of May.
- Our engineers updated the cost for the WWTP sludge tank project from \$500,000 to \$800,000. They have been asked to redesign the project to get the cost down. The RIA grant for this project is \$500,000.
- The Jefferson St house should be torn down by the end of the week.
- There will be a 3-hour training session on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Also, on May 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing to hear an appeal for a special exception to allow property on 320 Reynolds Road to be used for a restaurant.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmen Black and Dozier) – Director Philip Stanley informed Council that the new WWTP employee has already completed six out of the required eight licenses. The City has also reached an agreement with Orchids for them to run their dip process.

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

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Pattillo and Walling) – Administrator Zawacki read a report from Recreation Director Pamela Davis. The April 7<sup>th</sup> tournament scheduled at LPSC was cancelled because not enough teams signed up. The August 25<sup>th</sup> tournament is still on the schedule. There were 84 participants at the \$10,000 Fishing Derby held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. No tagged fish were caught, but thanks to the overwhelming response from donors, every participant received a prize. There were no vendors for the opening day of the Farmer's Market. An all-inclusive playground will be install at LPSC with grants received from PARD and Axis 1.

Police (Councilmen Black and Barker) – Police Chief Brian Johnson informed Council that Amy Black has been hired for the new position of victim's advocate. She will be cross trained with the support specialist. The new police vehicles were parked outside for Council to see the new graphics. Chief Johnson thanked the police committee for allowing him to put up a reward for the arrest and apprehension of a suspect. He was apprehended within three days. Johnson asked for Council permission to allow him to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighboring law enforcement agencies. This item will be on next month's agenda. The First Baptist Church has a security team and they have asked the police department if they could donate or sell them three old hand-held police radios. The radios are no longer used by the department. Councilman Barker made a motion to donate the radios to the First Baptist Church. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

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Fire (Councilmen Barker and Walling) – Administrator Zawacki informed Council that Chief Dicks picked up his new vehicle.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) –A budget workshop for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2018 at 5:30.

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 3,100 pounds of trash was picked up by 45 volunteers during the litter cleanup held April 7<sup>th</sup>. The next big event will be the Independence Celebration scheduled for Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**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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