

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL

June 1, 2020 – 5:30PM

MEETING LOCATION:

130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812
Live feed from Facebook Live for Public

REGULAR SESSION

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Rivera presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Harris T. Barker, W.C. Black, Billy Dozier, James Moody, and Robert Pattillo

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley.

Jonathan Vickery from The People Sentinel was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UPDATE FROM LISA FIRMENDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GENERATIONS UNLIMITED

Ms. Firmender updated Council on Generations Unlimited. Generations Unlimited is the designated transportation program for Barnwell County. They receive funding for the senior programs from a variety of sources. They receive funding from the County, the SC Department of Aging through the LSCOG, Meals to the Community Long Term Care, fundraisers, and donations. They have two senior centers, the Gail Reye Center in Barnwell and the Golden

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Retreat Activity Center in Blackville. The seniors attend the programs for exercise, recreational activities, and a hot nutritious meal every day. During the Covid-19 shutdown, any seniors that wanted or needed meals are receiving them. They do daily wellness checks on seniors who do not have anyone to check on them. Delivery of homebound meals has picked up by 79%. The transportation program is funded through the SC Department of Transportation, Medicaid, United Way, and the County. They also charge very low fares. During the Covid-19 crisis the trips are free. Mayor Rivera thanked Ms. Firmender for all they do for Barnwell seniors.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker and unanimously approved.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2020-3, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CONSENT TO PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.'S APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE OR VIDEO SERVICE AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2020-3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-2, A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF COUNCILMEMBER BENJAMIN DUNCAN SR.

Mr. Boulware read the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved. Mr. Black stated that it was a privilege to work with Mr. Duncan and he was an honorable man and an asset to the City.

APPROVAL OF THE BARNWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER THE STATE PLAN OF OPERATION (SPO) UNDER THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (LESO OR 1033 PROGRAM) WITH THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)

This program will allow the police department access to firearms and ammunition at no cost to the City. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion that the plan be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmen Black and Dozier) – Director Stanley stated that the closure plan to remove the primary clarifier and trickling filter has been submitted to DHEC.

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Pattillo) – Director Stanley stated that he had looked into contracting out the maintenance of cutting and edging the grass between the sidewalks and the road that is currently maintained by the street department. Estimates came in higher than expected so this will not be feasible.

Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) – Administrator McEwen stated that the question has come up about the closure of the basketball courts. Director Davis has been in weekly meetings with other state agencies and the courts have not been opened because it is a high-risk activity. Mayor Rivera stated that both neighboring cities have opened their basketball courts. Council said to open the courts with signage advising to play at your own risk.

Police (Councilmen Barker and Black) – Detective Owens stated that there has been an increase in gang related shootings recently. A high-level gang member has been arrested on unrelated charges, so hopefully, this will help. Mayor Rivera thanked the police department for all their hard work. Detective Owens stated that the department has been getting a lot of help from SLED and Highway Patrol.

Fire (Councilmen Barker and Moody) – No Report

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

Building and Planning (Councilmen Black and Dozier) – Councilman Dozier stated that the plans for the splash pad are moving along. Administrator McEwen stated that there is a lull in hospitality tax and accommodations tax so we will have to be careful how we move forward. She is also looking into some other types of funding for the splash pad. We did receive the PARD grant that Director Davis applied for.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

-We have received approval from the state to use the \$350,000 grant for renovations of the fire station. We are waiting on estimates for the renovations.

-The Census is still ongoing. We need to talk it up more. We have received a \$500 grant to do a marketing blitz for the City's population. Laura McKenzie is working on this and is looking for quotes from City Council members. Mayor Rivera asked if we could send out information on the

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water bills. Administrator McEwen stated that there is not enough available space on the water bills.

-City Hall opened to the public this morning. Procedures are in place to keep the public areas sanitized. A glass barrier has been put up around the counter in the main lobby.

-A budget workshop needed to be scheduled. Council agreed on June 22nd at 5:30.

-Fireworks will be held June 5th in honor of our Community – highlighting our first responders, 2020 graduates, and all our teachers. There will be a radio program with several speakers beginning at 7:30 pm with fireworks just after dark. City employees will do a Facebook salute to the graduates this week.

-Make a Difference Monday will be June 8th from 4-5 pm with cleanup beginning at the parking lots by the Lake and up Wellington towards Ellenton St.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer