

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the BUDGET WORKSHOP of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
June 27, 2017 – 5:30 PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met for a Budget Workshop with Mayor Edward Lemon presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Edward Lemon, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Billy Dozier, W.C. Black, Benjamin Duncan, Steve Walling, and Robert Pattillo

Others Present: City Administrator John Zawacki, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, Interim Police Chief Brian Johnson, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, WWTP Operator Philip Stanley, and Human Resource Director Lynn McEwen

Mayor Lemon called the workshop to order and asked for a motion to go into executive session. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session to review proposed salaries and to review appraisals for property on Wellington St and Marlboro Ave. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Council returned to open session.

City Administrator Zawacki and Clerk & Treasurer Vargo reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 with Council. A detailed discussion on revenues and each department expenditures followed. Most of the increase in expenditures was for personnel costs. A 3% salary increase was included in the proposed budget. Employer contributions for state retirement increased by 2%. The state will help fund 1% of this increase by giving a credit but this credit will be taken in the current fiscal year.

The proposed General Fund budget included a tax increase of 2.4 mills - .9 mills for operations and 1.5 mills for debt service. This will increase the total millage rate from 72.3 mills to 74.7 mills. Additional expenditures for the General Fund included the purchase of a used service truck for the fire department, new mosquito control program and new mower for streets and sanitation, and a new Toro for the LPSC. There was a discussion on three additional requests from the police department that were not included in the proposed budget. The first was for a position for a victim's advocate/police clerk. It was estimated that 75% of the time would be for victim's advocate and 25% of the time would be spent helping with police administration. Money from

the Victim's Services Fund could be used to pay for victim advocate expenditures but the General Fund would have to pay expenditures for police administration. The second item was for expenditures for a new K-9 drug program. Officer Santos-Hernandez has received a personal grant through the VA. The grant will cover the cost of the dog and training for the dog and handler. The dog will belong to Officer Santos-Hernandez and not the City. The training will be held in Texas in July 2017. The grant will not cover travel expenses. Interim Police Chief Johnson was asking for \$2,600 for travel expenses to be paid in this year's budget. Drug seizure money can be used for these expenses. A new line item for \$8,270 would be added to next year's budget for the program. Discussion about the program followed. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the K-9 program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved. The third request was for three new police vehicles at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The City could use capital lease proceeds to purchase the vehicles. This would have a net effect on the bottom line for next year's budget but would require capital lease payments for the following three years. It was decided to add these three items to the budget. A transfer from reserves will be used for the anticipated shortfall.

The proposed Water and Sewer Fund budget did not include any rate increases but did include a full year of anticipated revenue from new industry. Additional expenses for this fund include the purchase of a bobcat. Excess revenues will be used for capital projects including new diffusers for the wastewater treatment plant and the refurbishment of the Rose St water tank.

Proposed expenditures for the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Funds were increased for capital improvements for a new bathroom at the LPSC and a donation to the Barnwell County Museum for capital improvements to the old police station on the Circle. A transfer from reserves will be used to fund these expenditures.

Cash reserve balances were discussed. The first reading of ordinances for the budget and any fee increases will be at the next council meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer