

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
December 4, 2017– 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., 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, Police Chief Brian Johnson, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, 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 and led with a prayer.

Mayor Lemon requested that the agenda be amended to move the Police Officer's Oath of Office to the police committee report section to allow time for one of the officers to get to the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cody Carver with Americorps spoke to Council about the Americorps program. The group is in Barnwell funded by a grant through the United Way. They have helped with repairs to the roof at the First Baptist Church, helped clean the roadways for the Christmas parade and tree lighting programs, and are currently working with Axis 1. They will be in Barnwell until December 14th. The Mayor thanked the group for their service.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017

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

Councilman Walling made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF 2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Councilman Pattillo made a motion to approve the 2018 holiday schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF 2018 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the 2018 regular scheduled City Council meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF FIREMAN CHRISTMAS BONUSES

Councilman Black made a motion to approve the Fireman Christmas Bonuses as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE ACES CONTRACT FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND
DEMOLITION**

Administrator Zawacki explained that the contract was all exclusive for the two buildings the City is purchasing plus the old police building and old fire building. The demolition will be done over a two-year period. Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the contract with Alternative Construction & Environmental Solutions Inc for the abatement and demolition of four structures. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017

CANCELLATION OF ELECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

The Certification of Candidates – Cancellation of Election from the Barnwell County Election Commission was presented. The certification stated that the Barnwell County Election Commission voted unanimously to cancel the November 7, 2017 scheduled election pursuant to South Carolina Code, Sec. 7-13-190 (E) since only one candidate filed for each of the offices and no write-in candidate filed a declaration to be a write-in candidate for these offices. The following winners were declared:

City Council District 1 – Billy Dozier
City Council District 3 – Harris T Barker
City Council District 5 – Robert S Pattillo Jr

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the certification of candidates and cancellation of election as set forth by the Barnwell County Election Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walling and unanimously approved. The winners will take the oath of office in January when their new term begins.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- The City was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority to construct a new digester (sludge tank) at the WWTP. The project must be under construction within 6 months.
- Bid packages for the Rose St tank have been sent out. The bid opening is schedule for December 21st and work on the tank should start in late February.
- The aeration basins at the new WWTP are being cleaned by the WWTP employees saving the City approximately \$35,000.
- The City has been notified that the SCE&G transmission line right of ways that run through the City will be trimmed and cleared in 2018. The concern is that several communities are close to these lines. SCE&G contact information has been provided to the City for any questions or problems that may arise.
- The planning commission will meet after the holidays to consider a rezoning request for 3.5 acres on Reynolds Rd from R-12 to Neighborhood Commercial. The planning commission's recommendation will then be presented to Council for their consideration.
- Mr. Wallace is appealing the Zoning Board of Appeals decision in the SC Court of Common Pleas. The City has 30 days to answer the summons.
- The survey of the property for the public safety building should be completed and submitted to the architect after the holidays. Drawings and specifications should then be ready for Council review.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017

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) –Administrator Zawacki read a report from Recreation Director Pamela Davis. Basketball and cheer practices are ongoing, and games will begin January 2nd. The Top Gun Baseball Tournament held in Aiken in November did not need to use the LPSC as an overflow park. The Turkey Trot, Breakfast with Santa, and Candy Cane Hunt were well attended.

Police (Councilmen Black and Duncan) – Police Chief Brian Johnson asked for Council approval on some issues that he had already discussed with Administrator Zawacki and Councilman Black. Chief Johnson presented a new organizational chart to Council that would restructure the police department. The Enforcement Captain position would be eliminated and the savings in salary would be used for promotions and pay adjustments. He would also like to reallocate the K-9 program line item in this year’s budget to uniform and training expenses. Lastly, Chief Johnson wanted to change the police badge image and the graphics on the police vehicles for a more modern look. These changes would be implemented with new purchases, so they will not impact the current budget. Mayor Lemon stated that he was in favor of restructuring the police department and reallocating the K-9 program funds, but the police vehicle graphics were part of the branding in the master plan. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated the he felt the master plan had to do with economics and he didn’t see how adopting Chief Johnson’s plan to change the police vehicle graphics had anything to do with economics. Discussion about the change in graphics followed. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to allow Police Chief Johnson to change the graphics on the police vehicles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved. Councilman Black then made a motion to allow Police Chief Johnson to restructure the police department and reallocate the K-9 program funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Mayor Lemon administered the Oath of Office to Police Officers Arielle Griffin and William Beard.

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 informed Council that a second meeting was being planned with USDA for rural development grants for the public safety building. She also announced the winners of the Christmas parade and invited Council to the City employee dinner on Wednesday, December 20th, from 11:30 to 1:30.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session for discussion on personnel-Administrator position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Duncan and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

Mayor Lemon congratulated Councilman Duncan for his 22 years of service to the City and for being the first minority on Council. A picture of Councilman Duncan was hung in Council chambers. The Mayor invited everyone to a reception for Councilman Duncan immediately following the meeting.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer