

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
May 6, 2019– 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator John Zawacki, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, Director of Public Works Philip Stanley, Parks and Recreation Director Pamela Davis, and Community and Development Director Lynn McEwen

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL 2018 FINANCIAL AUDIT  
(MCGREGOR & COMPANY)**

Mr. Jim McGuire of McGregor & Company presented the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 financial statements. He explained that the audit was completed later this year because the State did not release the final pension information needed to complete the report until the middle of March. He referred to the independent auditor's report and informed Council that there were no findings. The auditor's report presented a clean opinion, they found the financial statements were presently fairly in all material respects. He explained the Management's Discussion and Analysis section and recommended that Council read this section for an overview of the financial

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activities for the year. He then reviewed the various sections of the statements with Council. The General Fund had an increase in fund balance of \$80,551. All department expenditures in the General Fund came in under budget. The Water & Sewer Fund had an increase in net position of \$6,900. The net position in the Water and Sewer Fund includes deductions for depreciation and pension expenses. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to accept the audit as information. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

### **PRESENTATION OF 2019/2020 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Mr. Sam Plexico, from Southeastern Insurance Consultants LLC, informed Council that there would be no rate increases to medical or dental insurance premiums for the City's July 1, 2019 renewal with BCBS of SC. The only change in the plan will be an increase in the Maximum Out of Pocket from \$7,350/\$14,700 to \$7,900/\$15,800. These amounts are indexed for inflation every year by the federal government per the Affordable Care Act. The plan compares favorable with other area employers. Mayor Rivera made a motion to accept the renewal plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker and unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Al Jenkins – Mr. Al Jenkins, a representative of Senator Tim Scott, welcomed the new Mayor on behalf of the Senator.

Morgan Reuis – Ms. Reuis is the new Marketing Coordinator with Low Country Health Care Systems. She invited Council to the ribbon cutting at the new Women's Health facility for LCHCS.

Bettie Newton – Ms. Newton stated that she has been trying to get people to clean up their property on Turner St for several years. She didn't understand why the City can't clean up the property and add it to the owner's taxes. Mr. Zawacki stated most of the property in question is property owned by heirs of the original owners and they do not live locally. Mr. Zawacki stated the City had discussed adding the cost to the tax bill with the County, but the County stated that there was not enough room on the tax bills. If we can get the County to agree to add the cost to the tax bill, then Council could tighten the ordinance and allow the City to go in and have it taken down and add the cost to the tax bill. Mr. Zawacki stated that the way the ordinance is written now, the only time the City can intervene is if the roof is caving in or if the property is left unsecured. Ms. Newton stated that the owner of the property next to her refuses to clean it up. Mr. Zawacki stated that he will reach out to the owner.

Ben Kinlaw – Mr. Kinlaw, Barnwell County Council Chairman, gave an update on the County's effort to have a greater voice with the DOE. The County receives 4.4 million dollars in funding from the DOE. The County retains half of this and the other half goes to the local schools.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2019 REGULAR SCHEDULED  
BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Black made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 regular scheduled Barnwell City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ON A REQUEST FROM REVEREND BENDOLYN JENKINS  
BOSEMAN TO NAME A STREET IN HONOR OF HER LATE MOTHER MRS.  
JOHNNIE RUTH JENKINS**

Councilman Barker stated that Ms. Jenkins lived in Barnwell her whole life and helped a lot of poor people in the area and is worthy of this honor. Councilman Black asked if they had said which street they want to change. Councilman Barker stated that they had listed Wall St., Allen St. between Wall and Main, Allen St. between Reynolds and Main, Marlboro Ave between Allen and Wellington, and Calhoun St. between Allen and Solomon Price. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated that the City didn't have any precedent on changing names of streets. Mayor Pro Tem Williams stated that Allen St. and Calhoun St. were named many years ago in honor of people at that time who deserved recognition and honor and he would hesitate to change any of those streets. He feels that doing so would show disrespect for the people who these streets were named for. Mr. Williams stated that he does not believe Marlboro Ave was named for any individual, and his personal opinion is that we should change some section of Marlboro Ave to a corridor or thoroughfare so that the people who live on that street would not have to change their mailing address. Discussion followed. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to call the section of Marlboro Ave between Allen St. and Wellington Rd the Johnnie Ruth Jenkins Thoroughfare. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barker and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ON LEMON PARK POLICY**

Mayor Rivera stated that he requested this discussion because the Baseball Association requested a key to Lemon Park so that they can have access to the park and tower. Administrator Zawacki said that the policy, which was passed in 2010, states that only the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Department Head, Administrator, and park workers would have a key to the park. Mr. Zawacki stated that since he has been here, the locks on that facility have been changed three times because of keys being given out without permission. The reason for the policy is that there is very valuable equipment in the tower and storage of some materials. In 2009, when the park was first opened, there was confusion and the policy was put in place to gain control over the quadplex and the tower. Mayor Rivera asked if the Baseball Association had any supplies stored in the tower. Parks and Recreation Director Pamela Davis stated that the Association only had baseballs and scorebooks stored in the tower but that there is always a park employee present when the Association needs to have access to those. There is no equipment owned by the Baseball Association stored in the tower. Mayor Rivera stated that the Association said there have been times when they were unable to get into the park or have had to wait for an employee to allow them access. Mayor Rivera asked what the issue would be with providing one key to

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the President of the Baseball Association. Recreation Director Pamela Davis stated that she would like the policy to remain the same. Ms. Davis stated that there is no reason for the Association to have access when there is not an employee present. Administrator Zawacki stated that the decision to change this policy is entirely up to Council. Ms. Davis stated that she is only trying to maintain the park as it is and if you give one key out then copies can be made and then we have no control over who has access to the park. City Attorney Tom Boulware stated that liability insurance could be an issue if keys are given out to anyone who is not a city employee. Councilman Black stated that the current policy has been good for 10 years and he feels we should leave it as is. No action was taken.

**RESOLUTION 2019-3 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM**

Administrator Zawacki read the resolution. This resolution will extend the current agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

**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 informed Council that the regular baseball/softball season will end May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The LPSC will host two district tournaments on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The \$10,000 Fishing Derby at Lake Brown is scheduled for May 18th.

Police (Councilmen Black and Barker) –No Report

Fire (Councilmen Barker 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) – Lynn McEwen informed Council that Make a Difference Monday is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and the Independence Day Celebration is schedule for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

-The new police station is now 50% complete. We are still on track for an August completion.

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- The tank for the new digester at the WWTP has been ordered and we expect to see it delivered by the end of June. This project is expected to be completed by the end of November.
- There is an odor at the WWTP when Orchids deinks their recycled paper. We took an odor eliminator and installed it in the equalization tank at Orchids as a test to see if this corrects the problem.
- We are working with several companies that want to locate businesses in the City.
- We will be meeting on Wednesday with representatives of Republic Services to discuss our sanitation contract which will expire on August 31st of this year. This will be on the June agenda for Council to determine how they want to proceed.
- We will be meeting with the LSCOG to discuss updating the comprehensive plan and the City zoning ordinance. These are up for review next year and we hope to get a cost for doing this work for next year's budget.
- I am also trying to get a cost for the recodification of the City code which is also due next year

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

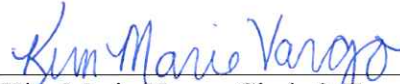
Councilman Barker made a motion to go into executive session for a discussion on legal/contractual matters concerning Orchids Paper bankruptcy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously approved.

Council returned to open session.

### ADJOURN

There being no further business, Councilman Dozier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer