

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL CALLED MEETING and BUDGET WORKSHOP of
BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL**

June 22, 2020– 5:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION

130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met for a Budget Workshop with Mayor Marcus Rivera presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Billy Dozier, Jimbo Moody, and Robert Pattillo

Council Members Absent: Harris T. Barker and W.C. Black

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

The news media was notified but none were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the workshop to order and led with a prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel salary. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pattillo and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY2021

City Administrator McEwen and Clerk & Treasurer Vargo reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year ending September 30, 2021 with Council. Revenues were estimated conservatively since the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic is not known at this time. The State has delayed the anticipated 1% increase in employer retirement contributions. Insurance premiums for policies with the Insurance Reserve Fund increased 18% to 50%. Due to uncertainties in revenues, a salary increase was not included in the proposed budget.

Barnwell City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

June 22, 2020

The proposed General Fund budget included a tax increase of 1.3 mills for operations and a decrease of 8 mills for debt service. This will decrease the total millage rate from 77.2 mills to 70.5 mills. Expenditures were reviewed by line item. The proposed budget has a deficit balance of over \$260,000. Expenditures, especially capital items, will be looked at to see if this amount can be reduced before the first reading. A transfer from reserves will be used for any anticipated shortfall.

The proposed Water and Sewer Fund budget did not include any rate increases. Revenues were decreased due to less usage by the paper plant since new management has activated the recycling system.

The first reading of the budget ordinance will be at the next Council meeting.

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer