

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
November 16, 2020 – 5:30 pm**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met in a Special Called Meeting with Mayor Rivera presiding.

Council Members Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Pickens Williams Sr., Council Members Alicia Davis, William Dozier, Peggy Kinlaw, and James Moody

Council Members Absent: Robert Pattillo

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, and Fire Chief Tony Dicks

The news media was notified, Jonathan Vickery from the People Sentinel was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order and Mayor Pro-Tem Williams led in prayer.

**PRESENTATION ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS SALE TAX BY COUNTY
COUNCILMAN DANIEL ALEXANDER**

County Councilman Daniel Alexander gave a presentation on the Capital Project Sales Tax. The Capital Project Sales Tax referendum was passed in 2016. The County began collecting the tax in May of 2017 and it will continue through April of 2025. The City of Barnwell receives 21% of collections or any bond proceeds. There are two types of methods to distribute the tax. The Pay-As-You-Go method releases the collections as they come in. The second method is to obtain a bond to get a lump sum to distribute so that projects can be started immediately. Tax collections are then used to pay the bond payments. The County initially borrowed 70% of expected collections. The City of Barnwell received \$1,800,000 of this to fund its first project- Public Safety Building Phase One. The County has decided not to do another bond issuance and will use the Pay-As-You-Go method. The County has excess collections over the bond payments and has passed a resolution to distribute some of this excess. The City of Barnwell will receive \$341,753 of this to continue its projects. The City also has \$9,150 available from the original

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bond issuance. The County will continue to monitor collections to determine when additional funds will be released.

APPROVAL OF FUNDING OPTION FOR FULLER PARK PROJECTS

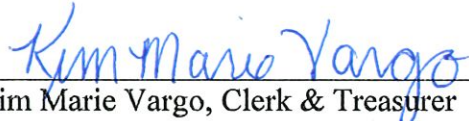
Construction of the Fuller Park splash pad, playground equipment, and restrooms is the next Capital Sales Tax Project with an estimated cost of \$542,000. Available funding for this project is \$409,674 including CPST of \$350,903 and PARD grant proceeds of \$58,771. This will leave a balance of approximately \$133,000. Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo informed Council that there was about \$50,000 in savings between the Local Accommodations Tax Fund and the Local Hospitality Tax Fund that would qualify for use for this project. She also stated that, if needed, General Fund savings could be used to finish the project with the anticipation of being replenished when the County releases the next CPST funds. County Councilman Alexander said that although it was not certain, if collections stayed the same, the next release could be within the next 12 to 18 months.

Administrator Lynn McEwen stated that the City could finish the project in its entirety using the funding options listed above, complete the splash pad and restrooms but put the playground on hold until funding is ascertained, or delay the entire project until all funding is available. Discussion followed. Councilmember Dozier made a motion to complete the project in its entirety using savings if necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer