

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
November 2, 2020 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

REGULAR SESSION

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

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

Council Members Absent: Robert Pattillo

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen
City Attorney Thomas Boulware was present via telephone

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE LONNIE HOSEY

Representative Lonnie Hosey and Mayor Rivera presented Mrs. W.C. Black and Mrs. Harris Barker with resolutions from the State House of Representatives posthumously honoring their husbands for their dedication to public service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debra Coleman – Ms. Coleman stated that there are two properties on one of the main thoroughfares coming into Barnwell that are an eyesore. They are overgrown and a door to one of them has been open for over a year. Ms. Coleman stated that we need to pay more attention to the community. She also said the Charles St is filled with potholes. She brought it to the attention of the Mayor because the street needs to be paved. Mayor Rivera stated that

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Councilmembers Dozier and Moody did a ride along with the Code Enforcement Officer to identify neglected properties. He told Ms. Coleman to give Administrator McEwen the addresses of the properties in question. Ms. McEwen informed Ms. Coleman that the street would have to be paved either by the County or SCDOT, depending on who owns it.

Ms. Phillis Rhodney – Ms. Rhodney stated that she is also concerned with the number of abandoned buildings in town. Especially on Marlboro Ave and Allen St. The owners should be held responsible. Councilmember Moody said that we know it is an issue. Most of the properties are owned by people who do not live in town. A citation must be hand delivered so it is impeding the process. We are in the process of looking at available options to get these properties cleaned up.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2020 special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Williams and unanimously approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE SUPPORT FOR SCDNR TO PURCHASE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND ALLOW THAT PROPERTY TO BECOME TAX EXEMPT

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is in the process of purchasing property in the city limits adjoining Lake Edgar Brown. Following state guidelines, they are requesting a letter of support from the City before completing the project and declaring the property tax exempt. The total tax amount from the previous year was less than \$100. They are planning on building a residence for the fish hatchery manager. Administrator McEwen stated that she had contacted County Auditor Gwen Kinard who estimated that the taxes would be approximately \$400 to \$500 if not exempt. Councilman Moody made a motion to approve support for SCDNR to purchase property within the city limits and allow that property to become tax exempt. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dozier and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL AND AWARD OF THE RECREATION AND BUILDING COMMITTEES' RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FULLER PARK SPLASHPAD AND PLAYGROUND PROJECT RFP

Councilman Dozier made a motion to approve the recreation and building committees' recommendation to award the Fuller Park Splashpad and Playground Project to Churchich Recreation and 80 West Group for a total of \$375,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL AND AWARD OF THE LOW BID FOR THE FULLER PARK SITE WORK

Administrator McEwen stated that only one bid was received, and it was less than the amount budgeted. Mayor Pro Tem Williams made a motion to award the bid for the site work at Fuller Park to Griffin Contracting of Pooler, GA in the amount of \$28,288. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moody and unanimously approved.

UPDATES TO CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor Rivera updated assignments to committees as follows:

Water & Sewer – Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Dozier
Sanitation & Streets – Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Dozier
Recreation & Parks – Councilmembers Dozier and Moody
Police – Councilmembers Kinlaw, Moody and Davis
Fire – Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Moody
Finance & Salary – Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis
Building & Planning – Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Dozier

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier) – Administrator McEwen said they are working with the engineers to find an ideal location for the new water tank. The original location for the well is fine but the location for the tank may have to be moved due to flight concerns from the Barnwell County Airport Commission.

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Dozier) – They have started on the fall curb and street cleanup and any areas of concern should be given to Philip Stanley.

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Recreation and Parks (Councilmen Dozier and Moody) - The position for a new employee has been advertised in the paper. Flag football and cheerleading ending last week and was a huge success. Volleyball games were played outside this year instead of in the gym. Upcoming events include a Virtual Turkey Trot from November 1st thru 21st, and candy cane hunt at Lemon Park on Saturday, December 5th at 12:00 pm. The Christmas parade will also be on December 5th at 4:00 followed by the tree lighting at 5:30.

Police (Councilmembers Kinlaw, Moody, and Davis) -- Detective Brian Owens updated Council on the number and type of cases for October.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilman Moody) – Chief Dicks provided Council with a report of October activities.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Kinlaw and Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Dozier) – No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

-Now that the contracts have been awarded for Fuller Park, work will begin as soon as the contracts are signed.

-Make a Difference Monday will be held November 9th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm to continue cleanup at Lake Edgar Brown.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- POSSIBLE DISCIPLINE OR RELEASE OF EMPLOYEES

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

Council returned to regular session.

Councilman Moody made a motion to move forward with a four month probational period for Subject A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Voting in favor was Mayor Rivera, and Councilmembers Davis, Kinlaw and Moody. Voting against was Mayor Pro Tem Williams.

Councilman Moody made a motion to move forward with release of Subject B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Voting in favor was Mayor Rivera and Councilmembers Davis and Moody. Voting against was Mayor Pro Tem Williams and Councilmember Kinlaw.


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Councilman Dozier abstained. Mayor Rivera stated that this will be approved contending review by City Attorney with the abstained vote.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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