

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
September 13, 2021 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Alicia Davis, Peggy Kinlaw, Billy Dozier, and James Moody

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, Fire Chief Tony Dicks, Director of Public Works Philip Stanley, and City Attorney Thomas Boulware

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Councilmember Dozier led in prayer.

POLICE OFFICERS' OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Boulware administered the Oath of Office to Police Officers Kenneth Harney and Jessica Parker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wanda Highsmith – Ms. Highsmith stated that Council is doing a wonderful job. It is the most diverse group of people she has seen representing the City. She feels Council has been totally transparent with everything they have done, and they should ignore negative comments.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021

Nancy Knopf – Ms. Knopf presented an idea for a calendar fundraiser to benefit the fire department and the animal shelter contingent upon approval at the County Council meeting. Mayor Rivera asked Ms. Knopf for her contact information.

David McCoy – Mr. McCoy stated that he was at the last City Council meeting, and he was bothered by the fact that there were people at the meeting who wanted to speak but were not allowed to because they did not live in the city limits. He asked if that is a policy that can be changed. Administrator McEwen stated that any policy can be changed but it would be up to Council. Mr. McCoy stated that there are many people who live outside the city limits but their children attend schools inside the city limits. He believes that if they have a concern with a school that is located inside the city limits, they should be allowed to speak at the Council meetings. Mayor Rivera stated that they should contact the school board for those issues. The school board is made up of their own elected officials. Mr. McCoy stated that the City had police officers that were hired by the school. The Mayor informed him that would be the Sheriff's Office not the City. Mr. McCoy asked Council to consider changing the policy.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT SCHOLARS

Christian Smith was recognized as the student scholar for September.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD

This item was postponed until next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2021, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2021, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2021, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-6, DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTACT PERSON FOR PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Administrator McEwen read Resolution 2021-6, Designating an Authorized Representative and Contact Person for Purposes of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. City Administrator Lynn McEwen was designated as the authorized representative and Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo was designated as the contact person. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-6. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. Mayor Rivera stated that Council will be informed about any information received and before any decision is made.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR ARPA FUNDS DISCUSSIONS

Administrator McEwen stated that Charlie Barrineau with the Municipal Association of SC has agreed to meet with Council and their district representatives to go over the ARPA, the authorized uses, and necessary reporting. Mayor Rivera wanted to make sure the community had input, so he asked each Councilmember to select a representative from their district to be involved with all discussions. Ms. McEwen will set up the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Moody) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Rivera and Councilmember Kinlaw) – Director Stanley stated that mosquito spraying is coming to an end for this year. They can continue to do trouble spots, if necessary.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Moody) – Director Staton supplied Council with a report on fall sports. Currently 173 participants are registered for flag football, tackle football, volleyball, and cheerleading with 15 volunteer coaches. Games are scheduled to begin next week. The only concern is if the schools close and go to virtual learning,

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021

practices and games will have to be cancelled. Also, if there is a rise in COVID-19 cases, fall sports may have to be cancelled.

Police (Councilmembers Moody, and Davis) – Chief Robinson updated Council on the activity for the month of August 2021.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Moody) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council with a written report for activity during the month of August 2021.

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

Building and Planning (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Kinlaw) – Fuller Park – The restrooms will be completed this week. There are several more small items (such as signs and additional benches) to finish but the project is complete. A date is needed for a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting. Mayor Rivera asked Administrator McEwen to give Council some dates and they will decide.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

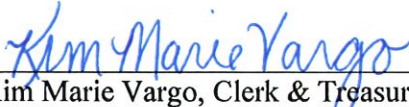
- The Well project has been approved by DHEC and by RIA for bid. The bid advertisement has been issued to SCBO and information is on our website. The bid opening is scheduled for Oct. 13 at 2 pm.
- Mr. Ed Connally (from the museum) has finished the work on the old Police Station. We will be working with him to have the police station moved back up to the Circle. They would like to have the dedication at the November 6th Sundial Festival event.

Councilmember Kinlaw thanked the citizens for their work on the 9/11 ceremony and the Barnwell Development Association for their work on the Wall Street Market that took place Saturday.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021