

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
October 4, 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, 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, and Councilmember Kinlaw led in prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT SCHOLAR

Rebecca Henderson was recognized as the student scholar for October.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD

None

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, INFORMATIONAL ARPA MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the minutes of the September 23, 2021, Informational ARPA meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW CITY TRAVEL POLICY

Administrator McEwen presented a new travel policy to Council. Discussion followed. Councilmember Dozier made a motion to table the approval of the new travel policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-7, POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mayor Rivera stated that he wanted to make a correction to the agenda. The title should read mutual aid agreement and not memorandum of understanding. Administrator McEwen said that the existing resolution pertaining to this issue, Resolution 2018-3, was approved in 2018 and included 10 agencies. Police Chief Robinson requested that the resolution be updated to include a number of new departments. Chief Robinson explained that he has proposed a mutual aid agreement with any department that sits within our judicial circuit. This includes Aiken County, Barnwell County, and Bamberg County. The purpose of that is we are represented by the same solicitor in all three of those districts. On top of that we have something in our district called the Law Enforcement Network. Within the Law Enforcement Network, we must all have a mutual aid agreement in for us to assist other departments with nonemergency situations. City Council must approve all mutual aid agreements. He also submitted in the proposal to have agreements with anyone within a 50-mile radius. He feels that this is needed because you never know when we or another agency near us may need help. Part of the mutual aid agreement is that any compensation is paid by the agency that the officers are employed by. Chief Robinson said he put Myrtle Beach on the list because if officers work bike week the City will be reimbursed. Administrator McEwen said that there were some safety and financial concerns, especially with Columbia and Myrtle Beach, about what could happen if one of our officers got hurt or had an accident. Discussion followed. Councilmember Kinlaw made a motion to table the issue. There

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was no second, so the motion failed. Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-7. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Mayor Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Dozier, and Councilmembers Davis and Moody voted for the motion and Councilmember Kinlaw voted against the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Rivera and Councilmember Kinlaw) – Mayor Rivera stated that the Tractor Supply parking lot looks terrible. Administrator McEwen stated that she has been in contact with the company responsible for it and they are going to get it taken care of.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Moody) – Director Staton supplied Council with a report on fall sports, a recent incident of vandalism and thanked his workers for their hard work.

Police (Councilmembers Moody and Davis) – Chief Robinson stated that the department will be conducting safety campaigns throughout the City for the next couple of weeks. Mayor Rivera thanked the Chief and the entire department for everything they did for Officer. Jones' family.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Councilmember Moody) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council with a written report for activity during the month of September 2021. Administrator McEwen stated that Chief Dicks could not be at the meeting because he was covering the department since two employees were out.

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

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- The well project bid opening is scheduled for October 13th at 2 pm at City Hall.
- Mr. Ed Connally has finished the old police station and it will be moved back to the Circle this Wednesday.
- SCDOT has a sidewalk project going up Highway 3 and part of that project will include moving our water line from the National Guard Armory north to the end of the line. All the costs will be paid by SCDOT since we are considered a small public water utility. We are still waiting to find out how this will be done administratively.
- Make a Difference Monday will be held next Monday at 4 pm weather permitting.

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- Upcoming activities include the Wall St Market next Saturday, the Rotary Club scarecrow contest thru October, Sundial Festival November 6th, trick or treating in Barnwell will be held Saturday October 30th from 6 pm to 8 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS; PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM DIRECTOR POSITION

Councilmember Moody made a motion to enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and unanimously approved.

Council returned to open session.

Councilmember Moody made a motion to hire Brandon Staton as the fulltime Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Director. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer