

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
March 10, 2022 – 6:00PM**

**MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812**

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, and Councilmembers Brad All, Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw and Councilmember Moody

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Clerk & Treasurer Kim Vargo, Attorney Thomas Boulware, and Police Chief Lamaz Robinson

The press was notified but no one was present.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order. Mr. David Dangerfield led in prayer.

EXPLANATION OF USES OF ARPA FUNDS

Administrator McEwen explained that Treasury’s final rule has given a lot more leeway in the allowable uses for these funds. Municipalities can automatically use up to \$10,000,000 for lost revenue in the general fund. Since the City’s award is only \$2,136,248 ,it can all be used for this. This will give the City the opportunity to purchase items that are needed but funds were not available.

DISCUSSION OF IDEAS FOR THE ARPA FUNDS

Administrator McEwen presented a list of priorities from department heads for the funds. Items were classified as safety, vehicles, equipment upgrades, and general public. A discussion of the items followed.

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The ARPA committee members present were asked for their ideas from the public viewpoint. Ms. Emily Coble said she thinks tearing down the old sheriff's building at Fuller Park is a wonderful idea. It is a safety hazard. She also likes making wi-fi available at the parks. Ms. Shelby Broomfield said other uses of funds could be used for public health and economic impact for small businesses or nonprofits. Administrator McEwen said there is an option that can be looked at for a matching grant to help the downtown businesses fix up their facades. Mr. David Dangerfield said that since the County and all the municipalities received their own money, he would like to have the City reach out to them for opportunities to combine resources and work together. Economic development and infrastructure are very important. Discussion followed.

**DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ARPA FUNDING WITH COUNCIL
APPROVAL**

Administrator McEwen said that all ideas are welcome at any time, but this will be the last official ARPA meeting with community committee members. Council will approve the use of these funds.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer