

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL**

**June 6, 2022 – 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, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Brad All, Alicia Davis, James Moody, and Ron Still

**Councilmembers Absent:** Ryan Bragg

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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## **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

There was no student recognition.

## **BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION**

There was no business/organization recognition.

Mayor Rivera mentioned that Councilmember Davis and her group gave away two student scholarships recently.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Rick Holcomb came to address council about the speeding on Galilee Road. He also stated that the neighbors as well as himself were not pleased with the police response on the attempted home invasion in his neighborhood. He stated that the police should be “proactive” instead of “reactive.” He doesn’t see the police riding through the neighborhoods anymore. He also made a statement about police officers living away from Barnwell and gas prices being high. He wants to see more police presence.

Debra Coleman believes there is not enough parking in the downtown area. She asked that we look at the issue. Councilmember Still and Administrator McEwen have been looking into the situation. Administrator McEwen explained that there are certain spots in downtown that are busy at certain times, but not all the time. There is also parking in the back city parking lot behind Subway. We cannot take out areas where there are cross walks for parking.

Toni Hutchins lives on Huntington Drive and was the victim of the attempted home invasion. She was not pleased with the police officers’ response, and she also was a victim of a robbery at her ice cream shop. She is discouraged with the way some things were handled.

The Mayor thanked them for coming forward. Crime is not only in Barnwell. It is everywhere. He stated that he has faith in the police department that they are doing all that they can. Hear something, say something. The community has to speak out when they know something about crime.

Phyllis Rhodie wanted to get a follow up for the signs about litter and also reiterated that the police should patrol the neighborhoods more.

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**UPDATE FROM BRIAN SOLHEIM, CASCADES BARNWELL PLANT MANAGER**

Mr. Brian Solheim from Cascades gave a presentation and overview on their company. He is excited to be working with Barnwell to assist in any way to provide technical and operational solutions to the WWTP when needed. Cascades will be investing further in new equipment and training.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2022, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022-3 A RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF BARNWELL AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LSR HOME CONSORTIUM FOR FY 2022-2025**

Administrator McEwen read the Resolution. Councilmember Moody made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilmember Still seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022-4 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE IN A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL & BUSINESS PARK**

Administrator McEwen read the Resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilmember Moody seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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**APPROVAL OF A MOTION TO TAKE OFF THE TABLE, “THE MOTION TO TABLE” THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT HEAD HIRING PROCESS**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to take off the table, the motion to table the approval of the hiring process. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED DEPARTMENT HEAD HIRING PROCESS**

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the Department Head hiring process with additional amendments. There was discussion but no second was made. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the original Department Head hiring process provided in the packets by Administrator McEwen and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion was approved 6 to 1 with Councilmember Still voting against the motion.

**APPROVAL OF THE ARPA QUOTED EXPENDITURES**

Administrator McEwen provided council with the latest quoted expenditure requests on previously approved projects for the ARPA funding. Quotes included were for 5 Flock Safety Cameras with a 4-year lease at \$55,000; for Wi-Fi to be located in the downtown Circle Area, Fuller Park and Lemon Park with 36-month upfront cost paid at \$60,000; and finally for cameras in these same park locations installed with a 36-month paid lease for \$25,000. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember All. After some discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FLAG MEMORIAL PROGRAM**

Administrator McEwen explained the proposed memorial flag program to the council. Flags will be ordered based on the information provided by families to remember Veterans who lived in Barnwell. This will begin with those who have already passed away (only going back to WWII). Depending on the numbers, we may open it up in the summer for those who are still living. Later we will move into honoring those who are still serving now. Flags will be \$75 each and will hung by the city in the downtown area. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the flag memorial program. Mayor Rivera requested that there be good advertisement of this so that people will know about it. Councilmember Still seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **MAYOR'S UPDATE TO COMMITTEES**

Mayor Rivera updated the Committees for Council with some additions. The following are the complete Council Committees:

Water and Sewer: Councilmember Brad All and Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw  
Sanitation and Streets: Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw and Councilmember Ron Still  
Parks, Recreation and Tourism: Councilmembers Alicia Davis and Jimbo Moody  
Police: Councilmembers Jimbo Moody and Brad All  
Fire: Councilmembers Ryan Bragg, Ron Still and Mayor Marcus Rivera  
Finance & Salary: Councilmembers Ryan Bragg and Alicia Davis  
Building and Planning: Councilmembers Ron Still and Ryan Bragg

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Brad All & Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Ron Still) – No Report except that we do have new trash cans available. Councilmember Still mentioned that there may be some more complaints on the trash service and the new trash truck.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Alicia Davis & Jimbo Moody) – Football, Cheer and Volleyball registration is still going on. Kevin Roberts, our new director will be here and is very excited to come to Barnwell. Councilmember Moody gave compliments to our Parks and Recreation employees for working hard. Mayor Rivera stated that our parks were filled to capacity this weekend in Barnwell. It was very exciting.

Police (Councilmember Jimbo Moody & Brad All) – Police Chief Robinson updated Council on monthly activity. They have partnered with Save the Children to bring a Cooling with Cops event at Fuller Park with a movie. The Community Service policing bridges the gap between law enforcement and community. The citizens are the eyes and ears of the police department, and we depend on their assistance to solve crime.

Fire (Councilmember Ryan Bragg & Ron Still and Mayor Rivera) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council with a written monthly activity report which was read by Councilmember Still.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Ryan Bragg and Alicia Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmember Ron Still & Ryan Bragg) – No Report

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## ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Litter Crew picked up 23 bags of trash & 3 tires during May. We had fewer days of pick up because the street dept had to put new trash carts together. I am working on meeting with a couple of college students/adults interested in working this summer to help us with clean ups.
- Joey Zorn Well Project has begun with clearing the lot.
- The Old Sheriff's Building asbestos abatement and demo bids are due on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 2 pm.
- Tony and I will be meeting with LSCOG to go over grant opportunities from CDBG for a firetruck/ladder truck on Wednesday, June 8 at 10 am.
- Look for the Wall Street Markets on the second Saturday of the month, they will skip June and July. Look for them in August.
- Farmer's Market will begin Tuesday morning at 8, June 7 at Fuller Park. Tuesday and Thursdays from 8-noon.
- Independence Day Celebration will be held Thursday, June 30, from 6-10 pm at Veteran's Park.
- The city budget workshops are scheduled for June 27 and 28. I will prepare agendas for each for budget discussions. Department Directors have been invited. I have asked them to let me know if they want to discuss with their committees before the workshop. I will let you know if we need to set up meetings.
- There is a meeting set up with Cascades at their offices on Thursday, 9:30 am. Our Philip (Director) along with Marcus Wilson – operator in charge, Bryan Black from AECOM, myself and Cascades will be meeting.
- Kim and I will be updating insurance information and checking on the State insurance program beginning next week.

Mayor Rivera also announced that there would be a prom for the gifted and challenged held June 9 from 6-9 pm at the Armory.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL OPINION

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

Council returned to regular session.

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**ADJOURN**

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

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer