

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA
MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
April 4, 2022 – 5:30PM

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

Barnwell City Council met for a City Council Hearing with Chairman Moody presiding immediately followed by its Regular Session with Mayor Rivera presiding.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Marcus Rivera, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Brad All, Ryan Bragg, Alicia Davis, James Moody, and Ron Still

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

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

CALL TO ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL HEARING

Chairman Moody called the hearing to order. Councilmember All led in prayer. Chairman Moody explained the reason for the hearing was to consider the proposed order submitted by Attorney Crowe for the revocation of business license. Chairman Moody asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none. Mayor Rivera did not attend the hearing.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S HEARING
VOTE ON MARCH 14, 2022 TO RESCIND BUSINESS LICENSE #220321

Councilmember Ron Still made a motion to approve the order of revocation and authorize its execution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4 to 1. Councilmembers All, Bragg, Moody, and Still voted for the motion and

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Councilmember Davis voted against the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw abstained because she did not attend the March 14, 2022 hearing.

ADJOURN

Chairman Moody adjourned the City Council Hearing.

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order.

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 Bragg and unanimously approved.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

None

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

The Barnwell Development Association was recognized as the organization of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Rhody – Ms. Rhody wants to start a neighborhood watch and provided Council with a flyer. She also asked Administrator McEwen about the signs, abandoned buildings, and furniture left on Calhoun St. Administrator McEwen said the City has been working on these issues.

Debra Coleman – Ms. Coleman is concerned about the parking around the Circle. She stated that Administrator McEwen had notified the business that two spaces beside Carol's Florist will be removed. Ms. Coleman stated that there is not enough parking to accommodate the downtown businesses. She would like for Council to consider reassessing the parking on the Circle.

Barbara Christian – Ms. Christian stated that she still had questions about the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Christian stated that she had addressed her concerns with Chief Robinson, but he

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has not responded to all of them. Mayor Rivera asked Councilmember Moody to set up a meeting with Chief Robinson to address these issues.

Mayor Rivera asked Councilmember Still to address the parking issues on the Circle.

**PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL FY 2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT
(McGREGOR & COMPANY)**

Mr. James McGuire with McGregor & Company could not attend the meeting, so this item was postponed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2022, REGULAR SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2022, CITY COUNCIL HEARING

Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022, City Council hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2022, special called City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2022-02, RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Administrator McEwen read the resolution. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 Recognizing April 2022 as Fair Housing Month. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF A MOTION TO TAKE OFF THE TABLE THE MOTION TO TABLE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-01

Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the motion to take off the table the motion to table the first reading of Ordinance 2022-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Still and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-01 – AMENDING SECTION 2-55 OF THE BARNWELL CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Administrator McEwen read the Ordinance. Councilmember Bragg made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2022-01 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All. Discussion followed. Councilmember Davis asked how the committee for Parks, Recreation and Tourism under section (a) is different from Recreation under section (b). Administrator McEwen explained the committee for Parks, Recreation and Tourism is a Council committee while the Recreation committee is an ad hoc committee. Mayor Rivera stated that he does not have an issue with amending the ordinance, but he does not want Council to make a habit of amending ordinances because the ordinance does not cater to what an individual feels is right or wrong. He will support it because he is a team player, but he is not for changing ordinances because there is a matter of disagreement. Upon vote the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE ARPA QUOTED EXPENDITURES

Administrator McEwen gave Council a list of items that she had received quotes on that would be purchased with ARPA funds. Council reviewed the list. Some of the quotes will need to have

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tax and shipping added to them. Councilmember Still made a motion to approve the ARPA quoted expenditures. The motion was seconded by Councilmember All and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmember Brad All) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmember Alicia Davis) – Councilmember Davis stated that the baseball season is underway. The concessions stand is not open at this time, but we do have one food truck that will be out there. Administrator McEwen said the lights at Fuller Park basketball courts have been fixed. There is a timer there for citizens to turn the lights on for two hours. All they need to do is turn the knob again for an additional two hours. The splash pad is now up and operational.

Police (Councilmember Moody) – Chief Robinson updated Council on activity for March and the Hoops for Cops community event scheduled for April 30th.

Fire (Councilmember Ryan Bragg) – Fire Chief Tony Dicks provided Council with a written report for March activity which was read by Councilmember Bragg.

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

Building and Planning (Councilmember Ron Still) – Bids have been put out for taking down the old Sheriff's Department. The bids are due Tuesday, April 19th at 2:00pm and there will be a site meeting Monday, April 11th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

- Due to several near misses of both cars and people at the location where Main Street comes into the Circle at Burr St., I have been working with SCDOT to correct the issue of a no parking zone on Main Street up to the first actual parking places. This has always been a no parking zone, but it was not repaved correctly when Main Street was paved last. We will have T&H Construction mark the area since they are working with SCDOT at this time and are already in the area.
- We had 6 volunteers for the March Make A Mad Difference last Saturday. 18 total hours, 17 bags totaling 368 lbs. Our Litter Crew grant workers have picked up 58 bags of

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trash, 1 chair, 1 couch, a large sign and 7 tires. They covered 3.75 miles. Another Volunteer Make a Difference Day will be scheduled in early May.

- Joey Zorn Well Project has begun with mobilization. We should see some activity out at the site by the end of April.
- Independence Day Celebration will be held Thursday, June 30th, from 6-10 pm at Veteran's Park.
- We need to purchase more garbage carts. We just purchased 250 in October, and we only have 5 available. The October purchase used up the budget. The cost has gone up and it will be close to \$20,000 for 250 carts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION; PERSONNEL- PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM
DIRECTOR POSITON

Councilmember Davis made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved. Council returned to regular session.

Councilmember Davis made a motion to keep the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director position open until filled. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moody and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

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

Submitted by:

Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer