

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
July 1, 2024 – 5:30PM**

MEETING LOCATION:
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

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

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ron Still, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Kinlaw, and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, Ricky Dixon, Wanda Highsmith, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo, Police Chief Michael Butts, and PR&T Director Tommy Elkins Jr.

Ms. Alexandra Whitbeck from the People Sentinel was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tyshawn Gaffney said he is currently a resident of Georgia, but he was born and raised in Barnwell. He has bought property in the city limits. He has placed a shed on the property and wants to get utilities. He is unsure about what he wants to do with the property but does not want to put a house on it at this time. Mayor Still said there are zoning restrictions. He would discuss the situation with the City Administrator and get back to him.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2024

**RESOLUTION 2024-4 AND PRESENTATION TO THE FAMILY OF EUGENE
“BUDDY” DARNELL**

Mayor Still read resolution 2024-4 honoring Eugene “Buddy” Darnell’s dedicated public service and employment with the City as City Recorder and then Chief of Police. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to accept the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. The resolution was presented to the family. Police Chief Michael Butts also presented a plaque from the police department to the family.

RESOLUTION 2024-6 IN MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM F. “BILLY” GUINYARD

City Administrator Lynn McEwen read resolution 2024-6 in memory of William “Billy” Guinyard. Mr. Guinyard was a long time member and Chairman of the City Planning Commission. Councilmember Highsmith made a motion to accept the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved. The resolution was presented to the family.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2024, BUDGET WORKSHOP

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2023, budget workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-4 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
ORDINANCE 2022-4 BY ADDING SECTION 6-24 ADOPTED AND REFERENCE
CODES SECTION (9) INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE”**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-4. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith. Mayor Still

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2024

explained that the codes in this section are revised every 3 years. City Attorney Thomas Boulware said that during the last recodification the International Property Maintenance Codes were inadvertently left off. This ordinance will include the updated code in the City's Code of Ordinances. Safebuilt will be the agent for the City to enforce the code. The City will designate buildings that are subject to and can be corrected by the code. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – Mayor Still read a letter from a citizen commending the professionalism and hard work of employees from the water department.

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Administrator McEwen said the section of Main St next to city hall is scheduled to be paved Monday, July 8th.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – The PR&T department was commended for the hard work that went into the fireworks display at Veteran's Park and the minor league baseball all-star tournament at the LPSC. PR&T Director Tommy Elkins thanked everyone who helped with the fireworks display including the BDA, police department and fire department. There was a kickball event at Fuller Park and the organizers did a great job of cleaning up. Fall sports registration is still open.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Michael Butts said they have made an arrest in the Hogg murder case. He gave an update on monthly activity. He has lost one officer but has already hired a certified replacement. He established a Captain's board to help fill that position and interviews are scheduled for July 10th. He has received approval from the academy to begin hosting training sessions. They will begin July 9th and continue through September.

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Council was provided with a report on monthly activities.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmembers Claytor & Highsmith) – No Report

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said they are sending a revised downtown proposal to Representative Hosey. On Monday July 8th there will be a meeting at City Hall at 5:30 with a local artist and the youth advisory committee to work on a draft of the mural followed by an open forum for citizen input at 6:30.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2024

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- There will be a special called meeting on Monday, July 15th, at 5:30. The agenda will include the FY2023 audit, the first reading of the budget ordinance, and sanitation bids.
- The MASC Annual meeting is July 17th-21st.
- They have moved into the new fire station. They are still completing a last minute check list. The old fire station has been demolished and they are working on site prep for the parking lot. The grand opening and dedication for the fire station will be Saturday, September 7th.
- The bid opening for the water tank has been moved to Tuesday July 9th at 2:00 pm.
- There will be a Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on July 22nd at 5:30 pm for the property at 674 Jackson St.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2024