

CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL
November 4 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, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, and PRT Director Tommy Elkins

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2024, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-6 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE VI, OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY TO ADD SECTION 20-166 CAMPING, SECTION 20-167 BEGGING, AND SECTION 20-168 LOITERING OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, CODE OF ORDINANCES”

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Highsmith asked how citizens will know about these changes. Administrator McEwen said signs will be posted at the parks, the ordinance will be on the City website, and the police department will issue warnings. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-6. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-7 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22, PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, CODE OF ORDINANCES”

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dixon and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the second and reading of Ordinance 2024-7. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-8 “AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 32-458 OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL CODE OF ORDINANCES AND TO UPDATE ARTICLE VII DROUGHT RESPONSE SECTION 32-458, ETAL, THE DROUGHT RESPONSE ORDINANCE AND PLAN ADOPTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL”

Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw 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 2024-8. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

**APPROVAL OF THE REVISED UPDATED POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUIT
POLICY AND USE OF FORCE POLICY**

Additional language needs to be placed in two of the police policies approved last month. In the Use of Force Policy 1.3, page 2 definition letter t and u have been added. In the Vehicle Pursuit Policy 1.4, page 6 last bullet point of letter g has been added. Councilmember Dixon made a motion to approve the revised policies. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT GUIDE AND
FORM**

Council had some questions about the permit guidelines. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to postpone discussion and approval until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Highsmith and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Myers) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Myers) – Administrator McEwen said the month rental of the street sweeper was up. Public Works Director Philip Stanley did a great job of cleaning up the streets. Councilmember Myers asked how we funded the garbage receptacles around the Circle. Administrator McEwen said they came from Palmetto Pride beautification grants.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Dixon & Highsmith) – PRT Director Tommy Elkins thanked Jermaine Moore for sponsoring homecoming festivities and clean up at Lemon Park. Tonight is the last night for volleyball and flag football. There will be a tournament in Williston on November 23rd for 9&10 and 11&12 tackle football. The baseball fields will be laser graded on November 17th. Other scheduled events include the Turkey Trot on November 16th and the Christmas Parade on December 7th.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Dixon) – Police Chief Butts gave a report on monthly activities. Officers attended Emergency Vehicle Training with the sheriff's department. Over 1,000 children came out for Trunk or Treat at the fire station hosted by the fire and police departments. The police department and highway patrol are issuing tickets and warnings for the speeding problem on Galilee Rd. The department still has two vacancies.

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

Fire (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and Councilmember Claytor) – Fire Chief Philip Delk gave a report on monthly activities. He said that since Trunk or Treat was such a huge success, next year he is going to tie in fire prevention to reach more children.

Finance and Salary (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Davis) – Councilmember Davis said we need to continue working on Special Events and a Smart Start business checklist.

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

Downtown Revitalization (Councilmembers Dixon & Myers) – Councilmember Myers said they will schedule a meeting with PRT and local artists about temporary art installations. She asked about the status of code enforcement. Administrator McEwen said the ordinances are in place, but the police department lacks sufficient personnel at this time to have a full time code enforcement officer.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

-Storm debris cleanup is still waiting on SCDOT contractors. They do not have a definite schedule of when this will start. We may be able to clean up some of the smaller debris in town after we get some rain.

-Our ISO rating will remain at 3, which is quite good. This saves our citizens and businesses money on their insurance policies. She thanked Fire Chief Phillip Delk and Public Works Director Philip Stanley for their hard work during the reevaluation process.

-Construction for the SCIIP RIA elevated tank project is scheduled to begin mid-November.

-Camera and smoke testing is ongoing for the SCIIP RIA sewer rehab project. Notices will be placed on doors for the areas that will be tested beginning November 11th that include portions of Clinton St, Camelia St, and Canna St, as well as the fruit streets and the lake end of Jackson St. The smoke is harmless.

-Easements are still being worked on for the SCIIP wastewater expansion project.

-SCDOT has approved the wayfinding signs verbiage and locations. We are now waiting on a mockup from the sign company.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Dixon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:



Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

Barnwell City Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024