

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
August 1, 2022**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2022, in the Courtroom at 100 Mill Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

Mayor Peter L. Banks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Banks opened the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Peter L. Banks
Councilmember Bill Claxton
Councilmember Christopher Hightower
Councilmember Joseph Sims
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Timothy T. Turner
City Clerk Tammy T. Folsom
Chief of Police Craig Cooper
City Accountant Tammy York

ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL

Mayor Banks recognized Mrs. Barbara Allison as an outstanding citizen who has worked to keep our community clean. He publicly thanked her for her service and presented her with a green plant.

On motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the following minutes as circulated.

July 5, 2022	Public Hearing
July 5, 2022	Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Claxton asked that tonight's agenda be amended to remove Executive Session.

Chief Cooper recognized retired Major Anthony Kendall. He said Major Kendall had been with the City for 25 years where he was always professional and if anything needed to be done, he did it. Chief Cooper expressed he will be sorely missed and thanked him for his service. Retired Major Kendall thanked the Council and expressed his appreciation for all the work they've done for the City. He addressed the community present and said it's been a pleasure.

Chief Cooper announced the appointment of Ms. Belinda Penamon as the new Barnesville Police Department Major/Assistant Police Chief. He noted she is currently a Sergeant who is totally for the department and community. After Ms. Penamon was pinned by Chief Cooper, she thanked everyone who came out today, her family, Principal Stephen Boyd, School Counselor Tonya Walker, the Council, and the City of Barnesville for entrusting her to help run the department.

City Manager Turner gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 589 on proposed miscellaneous rate changes relating to garbage/recycle, leaves/yard debris, junk collection, meter deposits, and water and sewer capacity recovery fees. Councilmember McDaniel made a motion to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Sims. Councilmember Hightower made a second motion to approve the increase in fees with the elimination of residential fee increases relating to leaves/yard debris and junk collection. The amendment died due to the lack of a second. After some discussion, Council adopted Ordinance No. 589 with a vote of 3 to 1. Councilmembers Claxton, Sims, and McDaniel voted in favor and Councilmember Hightower was opposed.

Council agreed to discuss adding Juneteenth as a City employee Holiday at the Budget Workshop.

REPORTS

Councilmember McDaniel thanked City Manager Turner and City employees for repairing the Depot pump. He reported he had the pleasure of attending the send off of Bennie Horton, a first class gentleman, who served 20 years on the County Commission. He added Councilmember Hightower did an excellent job representing the City.

Councilmember Sims noted the power bills are very costly and he asked about looking into providing budget billing. City Manager Turner stated we will have to look to see if the system can do it. He also suggested picking up the entire pile of debris instead of just one scoop.

Councilmember Hightower congratulated Mr. Horton on his upcoming retirement and he said he appreciated his service. He congratulated Christian Allen on his commitment to attend the University of Georgia. Councilmember Hightower thanked Councilmember Sims for his recommendations on how to help on power bills and trash pickup. He asked City Manager Turner if the resurfacing on Richardson Street was because of funding or work done. Mr. Turner replied it was due to repair. Councilmember Hightower asked if there was any word on resurfacing. City Manager Turner reported there was none. Mr. Hightower stated his prayers and thoughts remain with Chief Cooper and his family.

Councilmember Claxton reported he had met last Friday with the City Manager and he has his list for his Ward. He also reported the City has received 6 or 7 façade grants and he applauded the business owners for doing this. Councilmember Claxton said the sidewalks and curbs are dirty downtown. City Manager Turner stated he's looking at pressure washing them. Councilmembers Claxton and Sims said they're on board to start the initiative if the City will provide the water and get volunteers to help. They stated they would like to have this done by Buggy Days. Councilmember Claxton also stated he'd like to have a Public Hearing on Sunday Alcohol Sales to hear both sides.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Kay Pedrotti spoke about the condition of the Depot which houses the Lamar Arts Gallery. She reported on several occasions she has asked City employees for assistance to help patch the roof and floor. Mrs. Pedrotti requested the City to do a grant with Lamar Arts for renovations. She distributed copies to the Council and asked that it be taken up at the Budget Workshop.

Ms. Tammie Smith, a resident of Atlanta Street, stated the Lamar Arts Banner is wonderful and we have beautiful murals. She said building codes need to be enforced. Ms. Smith added we need music and art and downtown needs to come to life. She reported there are rumors that two Councilmen don't live in their districts and there needs to be a way to stop the rumors. Councilmember McDaniel explained this had been brought up in the last election and he stated he lives and resides at 494 College Drive. Councilmember Hightower said he lives in Ward 2. Councilmember McDaniel also said this Council is very receptive to changing ordinances to bring things to downtown, but a lot is up to the Chamber and Lamar Arts to bring people in. Councilmember Claxton noted we don't have the population to support locally so the merchants have to offer something to bring people from out of town and locally. Councilmember Hightower thanked Ms. Smith for being here and he stated at the Budget Workshop, he plans to discuss some ideas other cities do to bring people to downtown. Ms. Smith stated she wants music on the loud speaker. City Manager Turner replied we have the system, but we don't have anything to hook into the system and we have to have streaming. Councilmember Claxton pledged to provide the iPad and Councilmember Sims said he'd provide the internet.

Ms. Courtney Claxton stated she felt defensive with the Facebook post made by Tammie Smith. She said people should be looking at what's being done rather than what's not as far as what the Chamber can provide. She commented the yield signs on Market Street/Greenwood Street don't flow as well and she suggested changing the right of ways and reevaluating which direction they need to flow.

After no further business and on motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Claxton, Council unanimously adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Peter L. Banks, Mayor

Tammy T. Folsom, City Clerk