

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
June 6, 2022**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 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.

Councilmember Christopher Hightower opened the meeting with prayer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Peter L. Banks  
Mayor Pro Tem Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.  
Councilmember Christopher Hightower  
Councilmember Bill Claxton  
Councilmember Joseph Sims  
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

**STAFF PRESENT**

City Manager Timothy T. Turner  
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson  
Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Aiken  
Chief of Police Craig Cooper

**ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL**

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

May 2, 2022	Regular Council Meeting
May 16, 2022	Special Called Meeting

City Manager Turner gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 587 to revise Market Street to be one way. On motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Claxton, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 587.

On motion by Councilmember Sims and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Gage Williamson as the Street Superintendent. Mr. Williamson has been with the City since 2018.

Ms. Kenyatta Walker, CEO and Ms. Leslie Cantrell, Director of the Lamar County Counseling Center with the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board addressed the Council requesting rent relief at 133 Forsyth Street, Suite 3. Ms. Walker stated their program provides mental health and substance abuse services for seven counties at the building the City recently purchased. Ms. Cantrell added they have been serving Lamar County clients for twelve years and they have been in the building for eight years. She said Lamar County had granted them a building of their own, but the land was taken back due to a lot of circumstances that happened. Ms. Cantrell reported their program also provides free summer camps for 130 children and a lot of other free services. She posed the question if they aren't there to provide these services, where would the people go.

After some discussion, Council said it would take their request under advisement. Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire stated he thinks they're doing a tremendous job and applauded them for all their work.

Ms. Cindy Jones addressed the Council regarding the chaining of dogs in the City. She said she's seen dogs chained to trees and she thinks it's inhumane and cruel. Ms. Jones proposed doing away with chaining animals and the need to address cruelty to animals. She said the current ordinance calls for tethering, but she feels this is like being in dog jail and she thinks they should be in a fence instead.

Mr. Dan Williams stated tethered and chained are two different things and he wanted to make a distinction between them. He explained tethering is used to train dogs and he agrees with it, but not with them being exposed to the elements or chained unless a fence is required.

Mayor Banks and Councilmember Claxton said they had gone by the cemetery where Ms. Jones had complained about and it looked fine to them.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Courtney Claxton stated the response by the City crews today was amazing. She thanked the City for posting the agendas and minutes on the website, but she suggested adding email addresses for the Council. Ms. Claxton said there has been an improvement on garbage pickup except on Byrd Street because they're putting items out that won't get picked up.

Ms. Sylvia Bush asked why the pool was not opening. City Manager Turner explained the pool is 20+ years old and the concrete bottom is cracked, but the City reached out to four companies to get it repaired and only one responded and they can't get to it until October. He also explained initially a residential pump and not a commercial pump was put in and the City couldn't find any lifeguards so we just can't open it this year.

Ms. Juanita Fletcher asked for the City to consider placing trash cans at the corner of the streets. Mayor Banks responded each trash can costs \$600, but the City is going to purchase some more.

### **REPORTS**

Councilmember McDaniel commended the Barnesville-Lamar County Library for the Summer Reading Program and suggested it, Gordon State College's soccer camps, and some of the churches' summer programs to serve as other activities that can be found with the pool being closed. He also commented College Manor has gotten worst and they are not in compliance with the City ordinance. Councilmember McDaniel requested for the City Attorney to attend the next Council meeting for an Executive Session to discuss the best and worst outcome for the City.

Councilmember Sims stated he would like Sunday Alcohol Sales put on the ballot. He also said Ms. Barbara Allison has done a great job cleaning up their area.

Councilmember Hightower asked City Manager Turner for an update on the timeline to complete the repairs at Summers Field Park and rentals during the repairs. City Manager Turner reported he wouldn't have a date until the work on College Drive is completed and the park will be closed during the repairs. Councilmember Hightower also complained about the trash on the streets in Ward 2 and inquired how residents are notified if there is a problem as to why items are not picked up. City Manager Turner explained the process.

Councilmember Claxton commended the Holmes Street residents for taking action and all working together. He thanked Ms. Jones and Ms. Minton for coming and for all their work.

Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire commented he was upset about the pool not opening and he had asked for reasons and then he saw the lifeguard shortage on the news. He asked for an update on Northside Village. City Manager Turner said the same company looking at Roberta Drive is looking at it also. Mayor Pro Tem Shropshire also said the trash letters clarified what the City will and won't pick up.

Mayor Banks stated he appreciated the feelings about the dogs, but he doesn't understand the feelings about tethering and some people can't afford fences.

After no further business and on motion by Councilmember Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Peter L. Banks, Mayor

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Tammy T. Folsom, City Clerk