

**CITY OF BARNESVILLE  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
August 7, 2023**

Council met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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 Bill Claxton  
Councilmember Christopher Hightower  
Councilmember Sammie D. Shropshire, Jr.  
Councilmember Joseph Sims  
Councilmember Cecil D. McDaniel, Sr.

**STAFF PRESENT**

City Manager Timothy T. Turner  
City Clerk Tammy T. Folson  
Director of Utilities and Public Works Richard Vereen  
Chief of Police Belinda Penamon

**ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL**

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously approved the agenda.

On motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton, Council unanimously approved the July 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes.

**REPORTS**

Councilmember McDaniel expressed kudos to City Manager Turner for getting Redbud Drive paved most of the way. He asked that Spencer Street be added to the list with a sense of urgency because it is in need of repair. Councilmember McDaniel reported on a meeting he had with City Manager Turner, Mayor Banks, and Mark Butler, Executive Director of Three Rivers Regional Commission. He spoke on the services provided by Three Rivers. Councilmember McDaniel recognized the Kiwanis Luau, the Collier Building, and the Welcome Gordon State College Students Events.

Councilmember Sims stated on the Collier Building, he'd like to see parking permits in place before occupying of the loft apartments begins.

Councilmember Hightower reported he was honored to represent the World's Greatest City two weeks ago at the Lamar County High School Class of '72 Reunion with Mayor Banks and Councilmember Shropshire and the Booker High School Class of '70, the last graduating class. He expressed he appreciated Ward 2 constituents communicating with him. Councilmember Hightower recognized The Play Pen Sport Bar whose owners were present and commented on it drawing attention and crowds downtown. Mr. Vince Gilmore and Mrs. Tomika Duffey commented they saw a great need to bring their business to Barnesville, a good, family oriented City. They said they expect to be here as long as the City will have them to create a great atmosphere.

Mayor Pro Tem Claxton welcomed Mr. Gilmore and Mrs. Duffey and he also said it looks like their business has brought a lot of activity downtown. He commented on the Relay for Life event at the Womens Clubhouse, the Reverse Raffle, and the new owner at 211 (B) Main Street. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton asked for an update from the City Manager on the Recycling Center. City Manager Turner reported we're cleaning it up and moving the Street Department to the Recycling Center. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton reported on the power lines on Elm and Zebulon Street.

Councilmember Shropshire also welcomed The Play Pen owners to Barnesville. He asked for an update on Henry Murphy. City Manager Turner reported he has received the picture and scanned it into digital. He said he is ready for Councilmember Shropshire to come by to review it. Councilmember Shropshire also reported several Mill Street residents have come to him concerning the trees. Mr. Shropshire reported he's received complaints of dead and overgrown trees and that no one is doing anything about it. City Manager Turner reported the City has taken up the concrete squares around several of the trees and the dead ones are going to be taken down.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Dorothy Carter commented on the workforce that Councilmember McDaniel mentioned in his report on Three Rivers. She reported Carlee Robinson is the youth facilitator that helps with ages 16 to 24 and Kevin Williamson is the contact for bus services that employees the youth.

Mrs. Kelly Hughes thanked Electric Superintendent Jami Copeland and the City for their quick response in cleaning up a fallen tree on Collier Road. She asked for an update on the SPLASH Pad and said she can get volunteers to help clean up. Mayor Banks and City Manager Turner reported it will be in by the end of the month or the first of September. Mrs. Hughes asked who do you contact to hold an event at the fountain or Womens Clubhouse. City Manager Turner responded any City facilities available for rent will go through Civic Center Manager Felicia Vereen. She also reported there are some signs leaning and asked if these can be straightened up with Buggy Days coming. Mr. Turner asked if she can give him a list and he said they will be repaired by William Perdue.

A citizen inquired about the City having its own fireworks display for other holidays besides Buggy Days. Mayor Banks reported there is one this year that will be in the Gordon State College parking lot.

Mayor Pro Tem Claxton asked about renting the Depot Fountain. He said an individual has rented it for October, November, and December which prevents other organizations from using it. Mr. Claxton said as a Council, we need to look at and address this in the future. City Manager Turner reported there is no use limit on the application, but he will meet with Felicia Vereen and Niki Sappington to change the form.

A citizen inquired if there is a time period for the repairs on the alley behind Main Street and what happened to the music downtown. City Manager Turner responded there is no time period for the repairs and the downtown music was pulled because of complaints. Mayor Pro Tem Claxton requested for the downtown music to be restarted.

Ms. Wanda Brothers of 315 Redbud Drive stated she has reached out to Councilmember McDaniel about the empty lot next to her property. She inquired about the procedure for issuing building permits. City Manager Turner responded he will get Building and Zoning to look at it and he noted they can build, but they can't tie into the sewer now. Councilmember McDaniel clarified there is a wood lot next door to Ms. Brothers and if they build in the front yard, it would be the culvert and water will creep to her front door. Mr. Turner said he will look at the pipe.

After no further business, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Claxton and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, Council unanimously adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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Peter L. Banks, Mayor

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Tammy T. Folsom, City Clerk