



City Council Regular Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

January 10, 2023

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**7:04 PM**

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Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Josh Scallate and Mayor Murray.

Absent: Mitch Mitchell.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Councilman, Mike McFee

**III. CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATION**

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A. Mayor Pro Tem nomination.

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to elect Councilman McFee as Mayor Pro Tem.  
Councilman Scallate seconded the motion.

Councilman McFee accepted the nomination.

All were in favor, motion carried.

**IV. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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A. Character Education Proclamation - Alese Binyard, Broad River Elementary School.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the Beaufort High School Eagles Football Team.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. Proclamation recognizing New Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENT

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Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League, stated that a Tree Ordinance has been presented to the Town of Port Royal and is hoping to present the same language to the City very soon.

## VI. MINUTES

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Worksession and Regular Meeting - November 29, 2022.

Special Council Meeting - December 13, 2022.

Regular Meeting - December 13, 2022.

Motion to approve all was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

Minutes approved as presented.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

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### A. FY 2023 Budget Amendment - 2nd reading.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, reported that this would be a 5 percent cost of living adjustment to city employees. This would include a health insurance premium rate adjustment. The cost would be approximately \$378,000.00.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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### A. Approval of Beaufort County Council appointment of Marilyn Harris to the Beaufort Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as the Beaufort County representative.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz. Her term will expire on May 31, 2025.

All were in favor, motion carried.

### B. Request from Downtown Operations to use the Henry C. Chambers Park and ten (10) complimentary parking spaces for bi-monthly concerts, performances, and events from March - December 2023.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

### C. Permission to host the 2023 Taste of Beaufort, along with the Arts and Crafts Market in the Henry C. Chambers Park on May 5 - 6, 2023, 5k bridge run on May 6, 2023, and request waivers for sale of alcohol, open container and noise ordinances, street closures and issuance of parking passes.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Request from Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association for street closures for First Friday's on April 7, June 2, August 4, and November 3, 2023, beginning at 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. Request from Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity to host the 2023 Turkey Trot 5k on November 23, 2023, from 7:45 am - 9:30 am.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- F. Request from Holy Trinity to host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Swing Bridge Run 5k on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 7:45 am - 9:30 am.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- G. Ordinance amending Part 3, Chapter 2, Section 3-2002, of the City Code of Ordinances concerning fees for docking on the seawall at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park - 1st reading.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Marketing Director, stated that Safe Harbor is requesting a rate change from \$1.50 per linear foot to \$2.00 per linear foot to better offset the cost of constant maintenance to the seawall. The City has been slowly increasing the cost over the last three years. We still have the lowest dockage fees as compared to others in the region.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## **IX. REPORTS**

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### **City Manager's Report**

Welcomed Scott Marshall, who will be the new City Manager on January 28, 2023. He also welcomed Curt Freese our new Community and Economic Development Director.

Thanked the auditors for the presentation given to Council during worksession. He stated that there are some major projects ahead that will require substantial planning and funding.

Announced the awarding of an \$800,000 STAG Grant from the Department of Environmental Protection for the Stormwater project on Bayard Street. Thanked all who participated in the securing of this grant.

Reminded citizens about the Martin Luther King Day Parade on Monday, January 16, 2023, beginning at 10:00 am. There will also be an Oyster Roast that is being sponsored by the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association on January 21 - 22, 2023.

Lastly, he stated that this is his final City Manager's report and that it has been a pleasure to serve the community. He wished all a Happy New Year.

## **Mayor's Report**

Thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, and Beaufort County EMS for taking Santa around the neighborhoods.

Reported that the Woods Memorial Bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thanked the entities that brought attention to the potential changes to the Community Preservation Overlay on St. Helena Island. He stated while this is not in the City of Beaufort, significant development changes would affect the City.

Read a passage from the Man and the Arena, by Teddy Roosevelt, in honor of City Manager, Bill Prokop's retirement.

## **Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

The Housing Insecurity Coalition will have a meeting on January 25, 2023. They will be having a Point In Time analysis study done Countywide. This is an effort to establish how many are homeless in the area. This effort also identifies opportunities for funding.

## **Councilman Scallate**

Nothing to report.

## **Councilman Lipsitz**

Nothing to report.

All of Council wished City Manager, Bill Prokop, a fond farewell, and hopes that he will enjoy his retirement to the fullest.

All of Council thanked Downtown Operations, Public Works, and all the volunteers for a very successful Holiday Weekend.

## **X. ADJOURN**

**7:43 PM**

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

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Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org) (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).