



# City Council Regular Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

January 12, 2021

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:10PM**

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

All members of Council in attendance (Mayor Murray, Neil Lipsitz, Phil Cromer, and Mitch Mitchell)

## **II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Phil Cromer

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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No Public Comment

## **IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

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### A. 2021 Needs Assessment - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

**Barbara Johnson, Lowcountry Council of Governments Community and Economic Development Specialist**, began by stating that the program year is April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. Community enhancements that can be applied for are Community Infrastructure, Special Projects, Community Enrichment, Ready to go, National Objectives, Neighborhood Revitalization. In total there is approximately 2.1 million available in CDBG funds for 2021. The City's priority list is to be submitted to LCOG by April 30, 2021.

## **V. MINUTES**

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### A. Worksession and Regular Meetings - June 23, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Councilman Mitchell and Lipsitz abstained from vote.

Minutes approved as submitted.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

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### A. Tax Anticipation Note Ordinance - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Approval of ordinance was unanimous.

B. Business License Ordinance Amendment - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

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

Approval for amendment was unanimous.

C. Ordinance setting election, related dates, and filing fee for Special Election of Unexpired Term for City Council - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

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

Approval of ordinance was unanimous.

D. Ordinance amending Lady's Island Marina Planned Unit Development (PUD) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

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

Approval of amendment was unanimous.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

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A. Request for Co-Sponsorship and Street Closure from Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity for the Lowcountry Habitat Turkey Trot 5K on Thursday, November 25, 2021

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

**Janie Lachman, Habitat for Humanity Marketing and Resource Development Director**, stated that this will be the Turkey Trot's 4<sup>th</sup> year. In 2020 they had a sold-out event with a max of 250 participants due to COVID-19. If the same event restrictions apply at the time of the 2021 event, the organization will ensure to follow all the rules.

Event approval was unanimous.

B. Request for waiver of open container ordinance and permission to serve alcohol on Saturday, February 13, 2021 for the Cupid Sip and Stroll event

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

**Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director**, gave an overview of the event. This event would be put on by the Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association and Beaufort Area Hospitality Association. The event would be on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 10am - 12pm and then again in the afternoon from 2pm - 4pm. The event will follow COVID-19 protocols and the participants will be limited to 150 participants per stroll. The participants would register to visit up to five Cupid Stations located throughout Downtown. The event is a fundraising event to highlight our fantastic Downtown.

**Mrs. Roper** continued by advising that the Police Department has a few concerns regarding this event. One being crowd control and the other is the Police Department is not in favor of waiving the open container ordinance for the entire event from 10am - 5pm.

**Scott Lee, Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association President**, said that regarding the Police Chief's concerns they would stagger the event over a 30-minute time period allowing only 15 participants at a time.

**Dale McDorman, Chief of Police**, said that the only other concern is while wrist bands are great due to it being cold outside and people wearing layers, that may not be a suitable alternative for identifying participants. He suggested perhaps having identifiable cups.

**Mr. Lee** said that they can have identifiable cups. He also asked about a rain date in the event that it is raining, could they do the event on another day.

**Mayor Murray** asked if staff was supportive of a rain date, in which Mrs. Roper said yes.

Motion to amend the original motion to include a rain date change contingent upon the liquor license approval from the State for the changed date and available manpower from the Police Department was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All in favor of the amendment.

Approval of event was unanimous.

C. Authorization to allow Contract for Scott Street

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

**Kathy Todd, Finance Director**, gave an overview of the Request for Proposals (RFP) 2021-109 Waterfront Park Scott Street Terminus Landscaping Installation and Design. This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant award. The approximate budget for this project is \$25,000. Staff recommendation is to award the contract to The Greenery.

**Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director**, discussed and shared the design plan and logistics of the project.

Motion to amend the original motion to allow Beaufort 300 and Park and Tree Advisory Commission to approve the design made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All in favor of amendment.

Approval of contract was unanimous.

D. Ordinance annexing parcels R100 028 00A 0409 0000, 13 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0410 0000, 17 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0411 0000, 19 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0412 0000, Old Jericho Road (Vacant), and R100 028 00A 0413 0000, 25 Old Jericho Road - totaling approximately 4.57 Acres - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

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

**David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director**, gave an overview of the annexation request. The owner of the property is Randy Mikals. The proposed would be an extension of the Malvern's Center.

Approval of annexation on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was unanimous.

- E. Ordinance amending the City of Beaufort's zoning map to include parcels R100 028 00A 0409 0000, 13 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0410 0000, 17 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0411 0000, 19 Old Jericho Road, R100 028 00A 0412 0000, Old Jericho Road (Vacant), and R100 028 00A 0413 0000, 25 Old Jericho Road - totaling approximately 4.57 Acres - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

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

David Prichard, **Community and Economic Development Director**, stated the zoning being requested is T5-UC/RMX, which is contiguous with the existing zoning.

Approval of zoning on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was unanimous.

## **VIII. REPORTS**

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

Reece Bertholf, Assistant City Manager began by giving an update on the City Manager, Mr. Prokop. He is doing wonderful and on his way to a full recovery. Mr. Bertholf encouraged residents to continue to call Dominion Energy regarding their concerns on the Tree Trimming project. Commended Kathy Todd and her staff for another job well done on the Comprehensive Financial Annual Report (CAFR). Lastly, the Stormwater project is nearing the end.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Murray began by echoing Assistant City Manager, Mr. Bertholf regarding Mr. Prokop. He spoke with him today and he is in great spirits. He gave a public appreciation to Mr. Bertholf, Assistant City Manager for jumping in on managing issues that have come up since the start of the new year. It is fortunate that we have leadership like him at the City. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. We are not through this pandemic. He has been participating in COVID calls with Beaufort Memorial Hospital and he is optimistic that vaccines are here. Beginning tomorrow ages 70 and older will be able to sign up for a vaccine. Please continue to mind the protocols.

### **Interim Mayor Pro Tem**

Mr. Cromer stated that they had an Affordable Housing Task Force meeting on January 6, 2021. The Task Force is nearing the end. A final plan will be presented to Council at the retreat.

### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Mr. Lipsitz commended Neil Pugliese for the work he has done with the Stormwater project and what he continues to do with the Tree Trimming project.

### **Councilman Mitchell**

Nothing to report.

## **IX. ADJOURN**

**8:33PM**

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Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All in favor.

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Disclaimer: All City Council Worksession and Regular Meeting minutes are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org) (Agenda section). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Ivette Burgess at 843-525-7018 or by email at [iburgess@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:iburgess@cityofbeaufort.org).