



City Council Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

January 25, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:06 PM

Mayor, Stephen D, Murray III

All of Council members in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Character Education Proclamation - Irene Rivera Villatoro, Joseph Shanklin Elementary School

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

Approval was unanimous.

B. Resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Beaufort High School's Emmett O'Brien on being selected to attend the United States Senate Youth Program.

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

Approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, reported that the City of Beaufort received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2022 budget from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 5th time the city has received the award.

County Councilwoman, Alice Howard, stated the County has voted to extend the appeal period for the 4% versus 6% homeowners property tax assessments. They will have until March 16, 2022.

Edie Rodgers wants to see money committed to completing Southside Park.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2022 Needs Assessment.

Barbara Johnson, Community and Economic Development Specialist with the Lowcountry Council of Governments gave an overview of the CDBG grant program.

B. Worksession and Regular Meeting - January 11, 2022.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize release of Committed Fund Balance.

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, presented the projects that total \$777,500.00.

Replacement of the Marina Fuel System: \$725,000.00

Roof Repairs for the Carnegie Library building: \$40,000.00

Conditions assessment for the Carnegie Library building: Grant match \$12,500.00

These funds will come from the Committed Fund Balance for Capital Projects.

Furniture and equipment for the office space at 500 Carteret Street: \$75,000.00. These funds will come from the Committed Fund Balance for Redevelopment.

Approval was unanimous.

B. Authorize City Manager to enter into contract for Southside Park Comprehensive Plan.

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave an overview of RFP 2022-103, Southside Park Comprehensive Plan. The city received 4 bids. The committee recommends that Wood and Partners Inc., be awarded the contract to develop a master plan for the park. Their bid was \$28,500.00.

Approval was unanimous.

C. 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 Councilman Cromer and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Service Director, reported this is to change the dock fees at the seawall from \$1.00 per linear foot, to \$1.50 per linear foot per day.

Approval was unanimous.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Mr. Prokop thanked the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association and all the volunteers for organizing the Oyster Festival.

The city has become a participant in the South Carolina's share of the National Opioid Litigation Settlement. The city could see as much as \$175,599.00 over a 15-year period.

There will be a public meeting on Friday, February 18, 2022, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall to discuss the stormwater project in the Point and Downtown areas.

The next First Friday event will be held downtown on Friday, February 4, 2022.

Stated that the 64,000 square foot “spec” building in the Commerce Park is coming right along. Other buildings in the area will begin shortly.

There will be a Joint Council meeting with the Town of Port Royal on Thursday, January 27, 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Thanked Kathy Todd, Finance Director, on another successful Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This will be Kathy’s last report as she will be retiring.

Mayor’s Report

Thanked the Finance Department for all their hard work.

Thanked the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association on a successful Oyster Roast.

Beaufort County will be forming a Transportation Committee. City Council will be appointing a citizen to this committee by February 10, 2022.

Thanked Beaufort County for supporting the Cybersecurity and Good Neighbor Funding.

The Beaufort Economic and Development Corporation is holding its Converge Summit, in Sun City, on Thursday, January 27, 2022.

There will be a South Coast Cybersecurity Summit, March 7 - 8, 2022. The event will take place at Tabby Place, 913 Port Republic Street. This is a free event. Governor McMasters will be the keynote speaker on opening day.

Looking forward to the Joint Council meeting with the Town of Port Royal.

Reported that he, and rest of council, will be traveling to Columbia for the Hometown Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Councilman Mitchell

Thanked Kathy Todd for all her help this past year.

Is happy to see the progress that is being made at the Southside Park, and on the Community Garden.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Thanked the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association on a successful Oyster Roast.

Thanked the Finance Department for all their hard work.

Councilman Lipsitz

Nothing to report.

Councilman Cromer

The Beaufort History Museum is having their annual meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022, in the council chambers at City Hall starting at 5:00 pm.

Thanked all city staff for their help with the unveiling of the Prisoner of War Camp Marker at Pigeon Point Park.

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

All in favor.

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 (Agenda section). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.