



City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

February 9, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of Legal Advice regarding Economic Development.

No actions from Executive Session.

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Beaufort County for Special Projects and Associated Services.

Reece Bertholf, Fire Chief and Assistant City Manager gave an overview of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding special projects, engineering, and associated services between the City and County. He stated that Mrs. Todd, Finance Director, reviewed the document and provided comments to the County, which they accepted.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that the two entities are already working on projects together. This is a way for all to work together, using the same contractors to do the work and share services. He sees this as a positive endeavor.

Mr. Bertholf stated the terms of the agreement would be two years from the date of approval by both entities, with the option to renew three additional times not to exceed five years.

Mayor Murray thanked the Staff for their leadership on the proposal and is in favor.

B. Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Update

Bruce Skipper, Building Official, went over the update on the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that was re-written to align with the new flood maps that came out in 2017. The deadline, set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to comply is March 23, 2021. The elevation level is being kept at 13 feet.

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer, asked if this will help homeowners with their insurance premiums.

Mr. Skipper stated that some could possibly see a discount, but that maintaining this elevation level throughout the City will give continuity regarding new construction.

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League Director, commended Staff on their proactive efforts, and taking the issue of keeping people's property safe seriously.

Mayor Murray, said that the County, as part of the Lady's Island Implementation Plan, is considering a modification to a Fill Ordinance, a Flood Disclosure Overlay. He inquired how would that relate to this ordinance.

Mr. Skipper said that we do have a section in the ordinance that addresses Fill. He stated from what he has read, he does not see any major issues.

C. Preservation Manual Update

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that he and Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, had their first meeting with the Consultants on January 29, 2021, on the Preservation Manual. In the statement of work, he stated that there was a requirement to have two public meetings. He wanted clarification from Council as Mrs. Roper had a concern that Council might want more opportunities for public input.

Councilman Lipsitz feels it can be kept as is, if it is very well advertised through Facebook and other avenues.

Mayor Murray asked if these would be virtual meetings.

Mr. Prichard stated that most likely the first one would be, but by the completion date in September 2021, we could be back to in-person meetings. He will make sure the Consultant puts out notices as well.

Mayor Murray asked if there would be an opportunity for the public to provide feedback that might be included.

Mr. Prichard stated that was his intent but went on to say that this is not a policy document, but more of a manual for technical guidance.

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer, said that they will be providing monthly progress reports and that Kathleen Williams, Communications/Marketing Manager, might be able to send those out to inform the public.

Mr. Prichard stated that is a great idea.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, said that the public is always welcome to contact the Planning Department regarding issues they might have. They do not need to wait for a meeting.

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 (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.