



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

March 28, 2023

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:01 PM**

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

**III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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**A. Character Education Proclamation - Kellen Smith, Beaufort Middle School.**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

**B. Proclamation proclaiming April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Mr. Bennett McNeal sent an email regarding the Comprehensive Bike and Pedestrian Plan. A copy of his email is attached.

**V. MINUTES**

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- A. Worksession - February 28, 2023.
- B. Worksession and Regular Meeting - March 14, 2023.
- C. Worksession - March 21, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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- A. Request from Memorial Day Committee to host the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 2023, from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Appointments/reappointments to Boards and Commissions.

Motion to reappoint Kenneth Hodges was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Mitchell to the Cultural District Advisory Board.

His term will expire June 30, 2025.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Motion to appoint Will Achurch was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz to the Beaufort Housing Authority Board.

His term will expire October 31, 2025.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Ordinance to Participate in Local Revenue Services with the Municipal Association of South Carolina - 1st reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that the City participates in the Municipal Association of South Carolina's collection program for Insurance Tax, Brokers Tax, and Telecommunications Tax. MASC is rebranding these programs as Local Revenue Services and a signed ordinance, agreement, and supplement is required by May 26, 2023. All of the documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney, Bill Harvey.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## **VII. REPORTS**

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

Announced that the new fire truck was delivered last night and is in Summerville. The truck is expected to be in service by mid-April.

The Police Department will be hosting Law Enforcement Executive Development Association training starting next week.

Stated that he and Deputy City Manager, Reece Bertholf, met with administrators and managers from other local towns and cities. They discussed the potential sales tax referendum for transportation, infrastructure, and schools.

Reported that many of the Washingtonia Palm Trees downtown in the Waterfront Park have become diseased and will need to be removed and replaced. An arborist has been consulted. They will be replaced with Sabal Palm Trees.

The Exchange Club of Beaufort has donated 150 footballs, basketballs, and soccer balls to the Police Department. They will be distributed by Police Officers when they are on patrol and find kids playing.

### **Mayor's Report**

Thanked everyone who took part in, or helped prepare for, Tech Week that started with the South Coast Cyber Security Summit, and ended with the Tech Stars Start Up weekend. There was an Oyster Roast for the USCB Students as well.

Thanked Team Beaufort for attending the S. C. Works Job Fair.

Attended the Northern Regional Planning Implementation Committee meeting along with Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and the City Manager, Scott Marshall.

Lastly, he, Councilman Lipsitz and the City Manager attended the Southern LowCountry Regional Board Meeting.

### **Councilman Mitchell**

Was honored to have been the Pinning Officer at an event on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the National Cemetery that honored Vietnam Veterans.

### **Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

Thanked everyone in the community who supported Capa's Dancing with our Stars. Over \$311,000 was raised. You are able to watch the rebroadcast on the Beaufort County Channel.

Stated he attended the Friedman's Art and Home Studio Tour.

He attended the USCB Student's Spring Art Show, as well as the Beaufort Art Association's Spring Show.

### **Councilman Scallate**

Stated he was grateful to attend the Tech Stars event.

Announced that he is now the City's Liaison on the Beaufort History Museum Board.

### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Said that he attended the South Coast Cyber Security Summit along with the Tech Stars event.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**7:23 PM**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

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Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksessions 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).

## Traci Guldner

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**From:** Stephen Murray <stephen@mayormurray.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Bennett McNeal  
**Cc:** mcfee.mike@gmail.com; Neil Lipsitz; Mitch Mitchell; Phillip Scallate; Traci Guldner; Scott Marshall  
**Subject:** Re: Bike and pedestrian paths.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Bennett,

It's good to hear from you. As you may know, we had an interim planning director most of last year and just filled the position in January. Additionally, City manager Prokop retired and we've hired a new manager Scott Marshall who also started in January. All this to say the bike/ped plan effort has been delayed because of other priorities and limited staffing in the appropriate department.

The good news... Council recently discussed the initiative at our annual strategic planning retreat. (Meeting video is available on our website) We agreed it is still a priority and we hope to make some progress this coming year. I think we anticipate engaging a consultant with an expertise in this type of planning and will certainly take your suggestion into consideration as we move forward. Having a group of engaged stakeholders will be necessary to the process.

I have cc'd our clerk who will enter your email in the minutes of our meeting tonight. I have also cc'd all of council and our new manager if they would like to add anything.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or suggestions.

In Service,

Stephen

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023, 10:16 AM Bennett McNeal <[bennett.mcneal@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.mcneal@gmail.com)> wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning, Checking in to see if any progress or discussion have been made on a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan. My suggestion is to form a committee (of stake holders) and at least explore possibilities. Please submit this email at next public meeting and let me know what council members think. Thxs. Bennett McNeal