



City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting Via Zoom

June 9, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

6:00PM

Mayor, Billy Keyserling.

All members of Council in attendance.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Electronic Meetings Participation Via Zoom - **Reece Bertholf, Fire Chief/Assistant City Manager**, gave an overview of the revised public participation electronic meetings instructions.

Chief Bertholf stated that the ways for the public to participate in Zoom meetings has been expanded. All agendas will now have publicly stated a public participation Zoom link. The public can click on the link and enter the meeting. In addition, a phone number is also being provided on the agendas for those that do not have computer access, they can call in. If the participant wishes to speak once in the meeting, the participant will have to hover over the “raise your hand” function, at which time they will get acknowledged.

He concluded by saying that using Zoom and broadcasting it live on Facebook is the best option and hopefully with the expansions that have been made, they will meet Council and the public's concerns.

- B. Proposed Stormwater Protection Ordinance Language - **Bill Prokop, City Manager**, gave an overview of the stormwater protection ordinance being proposed.

Once the City's stormwater investment is done, we have to be sure that we have some enforcement regarding the protection of the City's stormwater system. This ordinance would impose a fine of \$200.00, should someone neglect the warnings, which would be part of the process.

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, asked if this would apply to the commercial companies that could potentially be doing lawn services.

Mr. Prokop said yes.

Councilman Murray stated that he was in support of the ordinance. He agrees that the City needs to have some type of enforcement. He asked if legal had an opinion regarding section A. - *Right of entry and inspection of properties and facilities.*

Mr. Prokop stated that once the details are outlined in the draft, he will have legal review it.

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, asked who was going to be able to enforce this ordinance.

Mr. Prokop said it could be Public Works or Codes Enforcement. We will also give three months or more of public notice before it goes into effect, so everyone knows.

Fran Pund Tuttle (Facebook question), asked if each landscape company is going to receive guidelines?

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, said they currently have existing ordinances that preclude businesses from violating. This proposed ordinance will be strictly for stormwater protection.

- C. City Council Summer Meeting Schedule - **Bill Prokop, City Manager**, proposed beginning the summer break after the July 28 meeting and having August off.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the workload would allow for this, so we do not get too far behind.

Mr. Prokop stated that most items would be coming before Council now through then. Council could also just meet July 14 and July 21. The July 21 meeting could be used as a regular meeting if needed for action items.

All Council members in agreement with Mr. Prokop's proposed schedule.

- D. Beaufort County Transportation Committee (CTC) Funding

Mayor Keyserling began by stating that there has been some concern regarding the no funding for municipalities and how appointments are done, are they truly representatives of the districts. The mayors will be getting together to discuss what is in the best interest of the municipalities, so their voices are heard, and money is transparent and distributed in an equitable way.

Mr. Prokop stated that the City and Port Royal's representative has resigned. Alice Howard has reached out to Councilman Cromer. She is looking for names that live in her district for a nomination.

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, stated that at the LATS (Lowcountry Transportation Study) meeting on Friday, Geni Kozak also had some comments on how it's done and reiterated that this is something LCOG (Lowcountry Council of Governments) is also looking at from the stand point of the funding for municipalities.

Councilman Murray thanked the Mayor and Bill for digging into this issue. I am interested in CTC because we have identified CTC funding for Commerce Park paving. We have committed to projects in Commerce Park.

Earlier on there was some confusion about the CTC and how it was structured. It has changed. The structure of the CTC is important. A broader conversation needs to be had with the CTC and Beaufort County along with our municipal partners. There are two forms of CTC committees, one is controlled by the state legislative delegation. Each of the eleven Council districts across the County can appoint a CTC Commissioner. The City has five County

Council districts within the City of Beaufort. The CTC per its ordinance is a County committee and is required to function as such. The concern is that the committee has not met since early March and yet the chairman has unilaterally decided that he is not going to fund municipal projects without any public notice or procedure where there is a vote called. A conversation needs to be had about that. The state statute that represents this committee clearly states that it must have fair representation from Counties.

Teri Maude (Facebook question), is asking if the Palmetto Breeze buses are a part of this CTC effort?

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, said that its not. Palmetto Breeze is a stand-alone organization. Its funding is through the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Prokop stated that the CTC funds are for paving of roads and sidewalks.

E. Renaming of Battery Saxton

Mayor Keyserling began by stating that the Battery Saxton Park on the south side of Boundary street was named after General Rufus Saxton. General Saxton was one of the main players in occupying forces. Camp Saxton was named after him and it was the first place where African Americans volunteered, and it is also the place where the Emancipation Proclamation was first read in Beaufort.

As a part of our partnership with the Open Land Trust and Beaufort County, we are now quadrupling the size of that park and we should have a discussion of renaming the park. Do we name the whole park Battery Saxton, or do we consider naming it General Rufus Saxton? It should be more than just the Boundary Street Park and we should take the lead on how it is branded since it is a part of our history.

Councilman Cromer stated that he likes the idea of drawing attention to the fact that it was a Battery at one time. It may be more appropriate for General Saxton to be recognized at Camp Saxton. Whatever we do, we may want to coordinate with the Beaufort County Historical Society.

Councilman Murray said that until he was older, he never realized the significance of that site. It may be worth bringing in some students, maybe through the Young Leaders of Beaufort or middle schoolers and even Larry Rowland, who can give history of what happened at the site. It can be made a fun activity.

Mayor Keyserling said that is a great thought. The history is very important for us and the next generation.

III. ADJOURN

6:42PM

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. 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.