



City Council Regular Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting Via Zoom

June 9, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:00PM

A. Mayor, Billy Keyserling.

All members of Council in attendance.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Mike McFee, Mayor Pro Tem

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem McFee to amend the agenda by removing item B. (Annexation) and item C. (Zoning) under Old Business and adding item to New Business, Solidarity Resolution. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sutton.

All in favor

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Program Performance and Accomplishments (Closeout) - Greenlawn Neighborhood Revitalization Project

Barbara Johnson, Lowcountry Council of Governments Affordable Housing Manager, gave an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project 4NR16001. The City of Beaufort expended \$500,000 in CDBG funds and \$1,733,487,00 in local funds to install sidewalks pathways, street paving and ancillary drainage and parking in accordance with the City of Beaufort Civic Master Plan. The improvements were made along Greenlawn Drive. The project was completed successfully and as proposed. This project benefited approximately 208 people of which 91.3% are considered low to moderate income qualifying.

B. Johnny Morrall Circle Drainage Project Application

Barbara Johnson, Lowcountry Council of Governments Affordable Housing Manager, gave an overview of the project application. The City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal propose to use \$1.3 million dollars in CDBG funds and 10% local match and additional investment funds for drainage improvements in the Johnny Morrall Circle neighborhood. The

project area borders Johnny Morrall Circle, Ribault Road and Oyster Cove Road. This project will benefit approximately 320 people of which 51.6% are low to moderate income qualifying.

C. FY 2021 Budget

Bill Prokop, City Manager, began by stating that this year's budget preparation has been a real challenge. COVID-19 will dominate the indicators moving us through FY 2021. The cuts that have been made to the budget are not things that we do not need, however we are simply doing without them and kicking the can down the road.

In this last review, all departments requests were reviewed and checked line by line. We have been able to delay \$131,000 in expenses. This will help us eliminate the road fee (\$20.00 per vehicle) that was being proposed earlier for this budget. We will also be delaying the \$10.00 stormwater fee originally proposed for this budget at least for another year.

The budget before you today is balanced by having a 1 mil increase on our debt mil and a 1 ½ increase on the CPI carry forward as well as this years CPI. In addition, a 1 mil emergency increase due to COVID-19 shortfall in revenues. This mil will come off once the shortage is paid back, which can take us about 1-3 years. Total increase in the millage rate of 3.5 mils.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, provided a summary of the consolidated recommended FY 2021 Budget. Total Revenues \$22,954,028 (General Fund, TIF II, Parks and Tourism Fund, Stormwater Fund State Accommodations Fund, Fire Impact Fund and Redevelopment Fund). Total Expenditures \$22,921,263 (General Fund, Parks and Tourism Fund, Stormwater Fund, State Accommodations Fund, and Fire Impact Fund).

All vacant positions are frozen and much of the capital replacement program have been frozen.

The Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2021 through FY 2025 is reflective of projects that were discussed in the Council retreat. They are now in Tiers from Tier 1 to Tier 4 (1-4+years priority level).

V. MINUTES

A. Special Council Meeting - April 6, 2020

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

Corrections on page 2 first paragraph - City's should be City.

Minutes approved with correction.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance amending certain provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Beaufort, South Carolina, to authorize meetings to be held by telephonic or other electronic means, and matters related thereto - 2nd Reading

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Tem McFee and seconded by Councilman Murray.

Reece Bertholf, Fire Chief/Assistant City Manager, gave an overview indicating that this ordinance would allow Council and other City Boards and Commissions to meet virtually after the current pandemic. This will not replace in person meetings but will give another alternative for meetings. In addition, this ordinance will allow Council members to participate virtually should they not be able to attend an in-person Council worksession or meeting.

Approval of ordinance was unanimous.

- B. Ordinance annexing parcel R 100 025 000 012B 0000 into the Corporate Limits of the City of Beaufort, South Carolina - 2nd Reading

Agenda amended to remove this item.

- C. Ordinance amending the City of Beaufort's Zoning Map to include parcel R 100 025 000 012B 0000 to be zoned as RMX - 2nd Reading

Agenda amended to remove this item.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution - Johnny Morrall Circle Drainage Project

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Sutton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

Approval of resolution was unanimous.

- B. Solidarity Resolution

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

Mayor Keyserling introduced Timothy Garvin, founder of Unified Beaufort.

Timothy Garvin spoke about the peaceful protests that Unified Beaufort started. He stated that the peaceful protests are a result of what happened to George Floyd in Minnesota. The African American community wants to be heard. The protests are for all the injustices that he and many other black men have had to deal with such as inequalities and racism. Our hope is that one day we will not have to fight anymore. Mr. Garvin continued by stating that there are necessary changes that need to happen.

Councilman Murray stated that he had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Garvin as he attended one of the peaceful protests this past weekend. Thinking globally of all the events that are unfolding how can we be an influence and part of the change. This is not an easy fix. It will take a lot of hard work, a lot of conversation, but we are blessed to live in Beaufort where we have lived peacefully for 150 + years. He continued by encouraging citizens to dig into Police Reform. Over the last few years there are have been several publications regarding best practices for Community Policing. A good place to start would be The Department of Justice Presidents Task Force publication of 2015, which gives 52 goals for community police departments. The Beaufort Police Department by and large embodies most of their recommendations. The Beaufort Police Department received a few years ago from the Justice Department recognition for its diversity within the department. We appreciate Beaufort Police Department and their participation in the peaceful protests for the past few weeks.

Councilman Murray read the resolution.

All members of Council agreed with the resolution and its importance of having this statement in the City of Beaufort.

Approval for the resolution was unanimous.

C. Request for Street Closure for Father's Day March for Justice on Sunday, June 21, 2020 at 4pm

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Tem McFee and seconded by Councilman Murray.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, gave an overview of the peaceful march and the route. The march will start at Waterfront Park to Charles Street to Boundary Street to Carteret Street to Bay Street and end at the Waterfront Park. No cars are allowed, and masks are required.

Approval for event was unanimous.

D. Ordinance amending Chapter 10 Part 7 Section 10.7.3 of the Beaufort Code concerning membership to the Beaufort Historic District Review Board (Task Force Recommendation) = 1st Reading

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

Cynthia Jenkins, Historic Beaufort Foundation Executive Director, began by stating the Historic Beaufort Foundation has had the honor for 58 years of recommending qualified representatives to serve on the City's Historic District Review Board. The board is an important component to the City's zoning ordinance and is integral to preserving the character and the sense of place we all know and love. Ensuring that Beaufort's architectural heritage is retained is a critical component of the City's economy and the viability of our tourism revenue. Mrs. Jenkins continued by thanking Bill Prokop, Mayor Pro Tem McFee and Councilman Cromer for the work on the task force the last 6 months. She feels that they have made great progress and she looks forward to continuing the partnership.

Councilman Cromer said that this is a great resolution to the problem we have had. It is now clear as to what we can do. The efforts of the task force were great. Working with the Historic Beaufort Foundation is great, but there is a lot more that we can do such as training.

Mayor Pro Tem McFee agreed with Councilman Cromer. This is another step to move forward with the Historic Beaufort Foundation.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, feels that in 6 months they have done a lot to include educational processes. The recommendations include ways for the City to improve as well as the Historic Beaufort Foundation. He feels comfortable now moving forward with the changes to the ordinance that clarifies the membership based on the Attorney General's opinion. We will work cooperatively to make a better Beaufort.

Councilman Murray said he is glad that the City is preserving the designated seat on the HDRB.

Approval of ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

E. Ordinance setting election, related dates, and filing fee for the Mayor and Two (2) members of City Council Pursuant to sections 1-8001 through 1-8006 of the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances - 1st Reading

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Sutton and seconded by Councilman Cromer.

Ivette Burgess, City Clerk, gave an overview of the ordinance. This ordinance sets the filing dates and filing cost per open seat for the upcoming November election. The cost for the Mayor seat is \$250.00 and for a Council seat is \$150.00. The deadline for filing will be Friday, August 14, 2020 by noon. Mrs. Burgess concluded by advising that the candidacy packets would be available to the public on June 24, 2020 after 2nd reading of the ordinance. The packets will be available at City Hall and on the City's website.

Approval on ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

F. FY 2021 Budget Ordinance - 1st Reading

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

Councilman Murray thanked City staff and Kathy Todd for answering all his questions through the budget process.

Councilwoman Sutton said she was glad to see the vehicle tag fee and increase in stormwater proposals dropped and that the budget could be balanced without them.

Approval of ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

G. Ordinance approving Stormwater Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 1st Reading

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

Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn, LLC (Bond Counsel), gave an overview of the ordinance. This ordinance authorizes an amendment and reinstatement to the intergovernmental agreement with Beaufort County for the collection of stormwater revenues. This ordinance allows City Council to levy stormwater revenues.

Approval of ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

H. 2020 Master Bond Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Stormwater System Revenue Bonds of the City of Beaufort, South Carolina: and other matters relating thereto - 1st Reading

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

Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn, LLC (Bond Counsel), gave an overview of the ordinance. This ordinance allows for the issuance of stormwater revenue bonds (a loan secured by City's pledged stormwater revenue fees). With this ordinance we can designate a revenue source as outlined by the Stormwater Intergovernmental Agreement to be pledged as security for revenue bonds or loans.

Approval of ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

I. 2020 Series Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Stormwater System Improvements and Refunding Revenue Bonds of the City of Beaufort, South Carolina in the aggregate principal

amount of not exceeding eight million dollars (\$8,000,000); and other matters relating thereto
- 1st Reading

Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn, LLC (Bond Counsel), gave an overview of the ordinance. This ordinance allows for the refinancing of the 2018 General Obligations Bonds and layering in additional new money based on savings that will be generated. This will allow stretching the dollars but at no additional expense.

Approval of ordinance on 1st reading was unanimous.

J. Authorization to allow the City Manager to enter into contract for Playground Equipment

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave an overview of the project. This project is related to a \$500,000 Land Water Conservation Grant, requiring a \$500,000 match from the City. This grant was awarded in November 2018. City resources for the grant were set aside at that time in the Capital Projects funds as required of the grant. The scope of the grant funded project were major repairs to the Waterfront Park pilings, new playground equipment and improvements to the Scott Street entrance.

Mrs. Todd continued by stating that Great Southern Recreation is the recommended contractor for the playground equipment. The negotiations were successful, and the design was solidified, reducing the overall cost of the project from the proposed price of \$298,682 to \$274,654.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, shared renderings of the playground equipment.

Approval to authorize was unanimous.

K. Authorization to allow the City Manager to execute contracts for Mossy Oaks Basin 1

Motion to approve made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Murray.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, began by stating that the City solicited an Invitation for Bid (IFB) 2020-109, Mossy Oaks Drainage Improvements Basin 1 and Basin 2 West on April 9, 2020. The bids received were from Truluck Construction, Inc., Quality Enterprises USA, Inc., Nix Construction, Palmetto Site Work Services, JH Hiers Construction, and Gulfstream Construction. It was determined by the selection committee that Truluck Construction, Inc. is the lowest responsive bidder.

Approval to authorize was unanimous.

L. Authorization to allow the City Manager to enter into Construction Contract related to Mossy Oaks Basin 2 East pending Department of Commerce approval

Motion to approve made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McFee.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, began by stating that the City solicited an Invitation for Bid (IFB) 2020-113, Mossy Oaks Drainage Improvements Basin 2 East on April 9, 2020. The bids received were Gulfstream Construction Company, Inc., Palmetto Site Works Services, Truluck Construction, Inc., Quality Enterprises USA, Inc., and JH Hiers Construction. It was determined by the selection committee that Gulfstream Construction is the lowest responsive bidder.

Approval to authorize was unanimous.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Mr. Prokop reiterated that if anyone in the public has any questions about the budget or the bonds, we are here to answer them. These topics can be confusing.

Pleased to announce that the Arsenal project is complete. The Arsenal now has a new roof, new windows, and a new bathroom. Reminder that we are now in Hurricane season and we should be prepared at home and in business. Thank you to all the business that are signing up for the Beaufort Safe program and thank you to Beaufort Area Hospitality Association for helping make Beaufort a safe place to visit. Congratulations to our very own Vanna White AKA Nan Sutton on hosting a successful Virtual First Friday.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keyserling thanked Unified Beaufort for the peaceful protest.

50,000 masks arrived today. These masks are going to communities in Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton County. The masks have been donated by the International Medical Corp. In addition, we will be receiving 200,000 more masks that will help replenish supplies for the underserved communities. Thank you to the many people that have donated to Pride of Place for Mask Up Beaufort. Donations have exceeded \$10,000.

Council

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McFee gave a big thank you to Councilman Murray for working on the Solidarity resolution. Thanked Nan Sutton for her great energy when hosting Virtual First Friday. And thank you to our staff for all their hard work on the budget.

Councilman Murray encouraged business to do the Beaufort Safe commitment by visiting www.bfthospitality.com. He reminded citizens that everyone is doing the best they can as this is a fluid situation and shop local. Glassworks that is moving into Commerce Park is making significant progress. He appreciates the support from Council regarding the Solidarity resolution.

Councilman Cromer thanked City staff for the budget process and for providing answers to their questions in a timely manner.

IX. ADJOURN

10:00PM

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Murray.

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.