



City Council Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

June 27, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:12PM

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

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Resolution honoring Mrs. Rosetta Bee Jones.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Amending the City of Beaufort's Zoning Map regarding Parcel R120 004 000 1007 0000 (1208 Pigeon Point Road), to be zoned from T-5UC to T-4N.

Curt Freese, Community and Economic Development Director stated that this request received approval at the May 15, 2023, Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting. He mentioned that the current zoning of T-5UC does not allow for single family homes. The applicant would like to rezone this parcel and then subdivide the lot and build three single family homes. The lot is approximately 11,374 square feet. He then went over the differences between the two zones.

The following addressed Council:

Duncan Elliott, 13 Porters Court, Charleston, SC - owner of the property
Andy Kinghorn, 1707 Pigeon Point Road
Bill Laughlin, 1200 Barnwell Bluff
Kay Merrill, 813 Audusta Place
Betsey Kinghorn, 1707 Pigeon Point Road

VI. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - June 13, 2023.

**Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.
Minutes approved as presented.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. An Ordinance to amend the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances, Section 1-4002, Appointment of City Manager regarding residency requirements - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on June 13, 2023. No changes were made since first reading.

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. An Ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an option to purchase; and purchase agreement for Beaufort Commerce Park, Lots F and H; (2) the conveyance of such real property in accordance with the terms of such agreement; and (3) other matters relating thereto - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on June 13, 2023. No changes were made since first reading.

The following addressed Council:

Terrea Braden, 10 Braden Road
John O'Toole, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation

All were in favor, motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request from Nu Delta Omega - PINKnic in the Park to waiver the Public Drinking and Loud and Unseemly Noise Ordinance for an event at the pavilion in the Henry C. Chambers Park on Sunday, September 30, 2023, from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Request from Beaufort Area Hospitality Association for Co-Sponsorship and waiver of the Loud and Unseemly Noise Ordinance and Public Drinking for Beaufort Oyster Festival on January 20 - 21, 2024.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. A Resolution approving an agreement between the Town of Bluffton, the Town of Port Royal, and the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Public Defender to provide funding for a Municipal Court Attorney.

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

Sarah Farrow, Municipal Court Administrator, stated that the City currently has a multi-jurisdictional agreement with the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defenders Office that will expire on July 1, 2023, as per the terms of the ACLU settlement agreement from October 2019. The City of Beaufort, Town of Bluffton, and the Town of Port Royal each provide funds towards shared indigent defense services.

An increase of \$16,666.67 for each entity is to be added to help fund an additional attorney. One is needed to help with the increasing case load.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Resolution to continue membership with the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization and to adopt the geographical boundaries for the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study.

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

Scott Marshall, City Manager, stated that the Bureau of Census defined a new Urbanized Area, based on the 2020 Census data, with a combined population from the Town of Port Royal, the City of Beaufort and unincorporated parts of Beaufort County that has now reached the 50,000 and over mark. This qualifies us to be a new urbanized area. We are now able to establish a separate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or continue to be a part of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO).

Other local municipalities will also be considering this same resolution. It was deemed beneficial to stay with the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. An Ordinance amending the City of Beaufort's Zoning Map regarding Parcel R120 004 000 1007 0000 (1208 Pigeon Point Road), to be zoned from T-5UC to T-4N - 1st reading.

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

A summary of this item can be found under the Public Hearing Section.

The following addressed Council:

Kay Merrill, 813 Audusta Place
Duncan Elliott, 13 Porters Court, Charleston, SC - owner of the property

Those in favor of downzoning were Mayor Murray, Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, Councilman Lipsitz and Councilman Mitchell.

Councilman Scallate voted against.

The motion was carried by a vote of 4 - 1.

- F. Appointments/Reappointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Terri Maude to the Military Enhancement Committee. Her term will be for 3 years and will expire on June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All were in favor, motion carried.

IX. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Thanked Public Works for a great Touch a Truck Event on June 17, 2023, at Southside Park.

Stated there will be a Chill with a Cop event on Friday, June 30, 2023, starting at 5:00 pm at the Pigeon Point Park.

Noted that the City is aware of some of the issues with the gooseneck light poles on Carteret Street.

The City received official notification of a State Grant for two School Resource Officers totaling \$295,038.00.

Reminded all of the upcoming Council Summer break that will begin after the July 11, 2023, meetings. The schedule will pick back up on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, with the Code Edit Worksession.

First Friday event will be held downtown on July 7, 2023. The theme will be God Bless America.

The Shrimp Festival will be held October 6 - 7, 2023. Vendor applications are being accepted.

City offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, for the observance of Independence Day.

Mayor's Report

Thanked Beaufort County Animal Control for taking care of a rooster issue.

Thanked County Council for their denial of the Pine Island rezoning request.

Reported he attended the dedication and opening ceremony of the International African American Museum in Charleston.

Thanked Council, staff and the public for attending the Code Edit meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Councilman Mitchell

Stated he attended the Juneteenth celebration at the Grand Army of the Republic Hall. The effort was led by Reverend Dr. Elijah Washington. It was hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Women's Relief Corps.

Mentioned that he toured the Charles Lind Brown Center a few weeks ago and thanked Eric Larson and the County for their continued efforts in making changes to the center.

Thanked Council for the proclamation honoring Rosetta Bee Jones.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Nothing to report.

Councilman Scallate

Attended the showing of Broadway Americana at the USCB Performing Arts Center hosted by the Beaufort History Museum and attended the Dragonboat races downtown.

Councilman Lipsitz

Attended the Neighborhood Association Meeting early in the month, as well as the Lowcountry Council of Governments meeting.

Was appointed to the Home Consortium representing Beaufort County.

All wished everyone a Happy 4th of July and thanked Public Works for putting together a great Touch a Truck event.

X. ADJOURN

8:51 PM

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

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 (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.