



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

August 23, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:07 PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

All of Council members in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee.

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Proclamation proclaiming August 17 - 24, 2022, as USCB Sand Shark Week.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Pellon and the Parris Island Marine Band.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. Resolution commending Witt Cox for serving on the Design Review Board.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

D. Resolution commending Stacey Applegate for serving on the Historic District Review Board.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

E. Resolution commending Mike Tomy for serving on the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

F. Resolution commending Josh Gibson for serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

G. Resolution commending Tim Wood for serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Canning, City of Beaufort, would like to see more restrictions regarding roosters in the city limits.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, reported that the City of Beaufort received the Government Financial Officers Association Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Josh Scallate, Mossy Oaks, introduced himself and announced that he is running for City Council.

V. MINUTES

A. Special Worksession and Special Meeting - June 21, 2022.

B. Regular Meeting - June 28, 2022

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request from USCB Center for the Arts to host Women's Wellness Retreat 5K on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 7:45 am to 10:00 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Request from Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity to host Firecracker 5K on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, from 7:45 am to 9:30 am.

Motion to table this discussion was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. Request from Beaufort County Veteran's Affairs to host Veteran's Day Parade and street closures on Friday, November 11, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

D. Request from Benjamin Whitmore to host Helping Heroes 5K on Saturday, November 12, 2022, from 7:45 am to 9:30 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. Request from Beaufort County Library for Co-Sponsorship for use of the Henry C. Chambers Park to Host Friends of Beaufort Library Fall Book Sale, November 4 - 6, 2022, request for overnight camping in the park, and 10 complementary parking spaces.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- F. Request from Open Land Trust for street closure, waiver of Drinking in Public and waiver of Noise Ordinance to host Brunch on the Bluff on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- G. Request for waiver of Ordinances for Drinking in Public and Consumption of Alcohol in the Henry C. Chambers Park for a private wedding reception on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- H. Request for Co-Sponsorship from Beaufort Area Hospitality Association for use of the Henry C. Chambers Park, request for permission to sell alcohol, waiver of Drinking in Public and Noise Ordinances to host The Beaufort Oyster Festival, January 21 - 22, 2023.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- I. FY 2022 Budget Amendments - 1st reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, went over the four budget amendments.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- J. Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Sales Contract and other documents for the sale of Parcel Number R120 004 000 0659 0000 located at 1505 North Street to Beaufort County - 1st reading.

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

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that this is the paved parking lot by the old Federal Courthouse. It is being sold to Beaufort County for \$630,000. Closing will be on or before November 30, 2022. Mr. Prokop also stated that they would like to utilize these funds for Southside Park improvements, instead of putting the funds into Land Acquisitions revenue.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- K. Ordinance amending Part 6, Chapter 4, of the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances to adopt text changes recently enacted by Beaufort County to Chapter 14, Article II (Animal Control) of the Beaufort County Ordinances - 1st reading.

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

Tallulah McGee, Director of Beaufort County Animal Services, went over some of the text amendments to the Beaufort County Animal Control Ordinance. These changes were adopted by Beaufort County on April 11, 2022.

Mayor Murray would like to see Beaufort County Animal Services work with the City of Beaufort on some suggested ordinance changes regarding roosters in the city limits.

Dale McDorman, Police Chief, has no issues with the changes.

All were in favor, motion carried.

L. Resolution to adopt the Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual.

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

Reece Bertholf, Deputy City Manager, stated that by ordinance the Beaufort Development Code was adopted and in section 8.3.3.A, it directs the Stormwater Engineers to what manual they should be using. This resolution will point them to the updated Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual.

Jason Hetrick, Assistant Director of Water Resources with McCormick Taylor, spoke about the implementation of the guidelines.

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League, spoke on this topic.

Katie Herrera, Beaufort County, thanked the city for working on the implementation of the manual.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Reported that engineering is underway for our stormwater projects in downtown, Allison Road, and Calhoun Street. Engineering is also being done on the parallel road project off Boundary Street.

He asked for the public's help in keeping items out of the stormwater drains, so they can drain properly.

Thanked the 5 candidates who are running for City Council in the upcoming election.

Stated that at the end of the year, Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority will no longer be billing for recycling/trash services for the city. Capital Waste will be billing the citizens directly. Over the next few months, directions will be given on how to set up accounts with Capital Waste.

Saturday, August 27, 2022, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, the Watermelon Sip N Stroll will be taking place downtown.

The Parish Church of Beaufort, 505 Church Street, will be hosting a Patriot's Day celebration on Sunday, September 11, 2022, starting at 5:00 pm.

Reminded citizens that First Friday will take place downtown on September 2, 2022.

The City of Beaufort offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022, for the Labor Day holiday.

Reported that the City of Beaufort was awarded the South Carolina Municipal Association Achievement Award for the Mossy Oaks Stormwater project. Neal Pugliese and Kathleen Williams accepted the award at the MASC annual meeting this past July.

The Finance Department was recognized by the Government Financial Officers Association for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Reported that a resident requested a demolition permit for a non-contributing structure. The vote from the Historic District Review Board ended in a tie. Code allows the director to make the determination in this case, and permission was granted for the resident to proceed.

Stated that City Hall, and the Police/Municipal Court buildings were struck by lightning on July 14, 2022, damaging the air conditioning units and electrical systems. What was initially estimated to be about \$30,000 worth of damage, is now over \$100,000. This will be covered by insurance.

Mayor's Report

Reported that there are 76 days until election day. He thanked the 5 candidates for offering their service.

Stated he had received a number of complaints in the Mossy Oaks area when we experienced a high amount of rain in a short time period. He thanked Public Works for responding to these concerns in a timely manner.

Congratulated the Director of the Beaufort County School District for getting all kids back to school safely.

Congratulated Michell Sackman, Beaufort Elementary School Principal, on being named Elementary Principal of the Year.

Stated that he and Councilman Lipsitz attended the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board Meeting today. They celebrated their 5-year anniversary.

Reported that he and the City Manager, Bill Prokop, attended the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) Convocation last week.

The Beaufort Digital Corridor is hosting Cyber Security Classes. Great way to get an introduction to Cyber Security.

Reported he attended a Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation Board meeting. He encouraged everyone to drive through the Commerce Park to see the construction that is taking place.

Thanked Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director and other team members on the completion of the Landing Pad located at 500 Carteret Street.

Councilman Mitchell

Thanked Karl Puckett with the Beaufort Gazette, for bringing attention to a story regarding a Summer Camp that took place at the Charles Lind Brown Center through Beaufort County Parks and Recreation. This was for Beaufort County Employees only. He was disappointed to find out that this was not open to the public.

He is looking forward to his continued work with Beaufort County to enhance the facility.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Invited everyone to go to the Local Area Transportation Study (LATS) website and look at the I-95 widening project that will take place from the Georgia/South Carolina State line to Highway 278 (Exit 8). The project has been funded. There is a survey asking for public input.

On September 2, 2022, cast members from the Guys and Dolls will be putting on a program during the First Friday event. The play is running at the University of South Carolina Beaufort on September 16 - 17, 2022, and September 23 - 24, 2022.

Councilman Lipsitz

Nothing to report.

Councilman Cromer

Reported that during the search for Stuarts Town which took place August 8, 2022, - August 12, 2022, they were able to do 117 shovel tests in 4 parks and 16 private properties. A few of the properties look very promising. Three centuries worth of artifacts were found.

There will be a symposium on Saturday, February 4, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the USCB Performing Arts Center to talk about their findings.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding the purchase and sale of property.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of Legal Advice - regarding pending litigation.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURN

9:59 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Mitchell

All were in favor, motion carried.

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession 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.