



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

September 14, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:02PM

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. Resolution recognizing the Beaufort Lions Club on 75 years of service in the community.

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

Approval was unanimous.

B. Proclamation proclaiming September 17 - 23, 2021, as Constitution Week.

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

Approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Emails from George and Graham Trask are attached to these minutes.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Calhoun Street Stormwater and Streetscape Improvement Project.

Barbara Johnson, Community and Economic Development Specialist with the Lowcountry Council of Governments gave an overview of the Community Development Block Grant that is being submitted to the Department of Commerce. The CDBG request amount is \$750,000 with a 10 percent local match of \$75,000. This will leave \$2,017,931.00 to be covered by the city.

VI. MINUTES

B. Worksession and Regular Meeting - August 24, 2021.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for Public Assembly and Noise Ordinance waiver from Historic Beaufort Foundation to host the 2021 Libations with Lafayette on Saturday, October 9, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- B. Request for Public Assembly from Historic Beaufort Foundation to host the 2021 Fall Festival of Houses & Gardens for the weekend of October 22 - 24, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- C. Request for Public Assembly and Noise Ordinance waiver from Joe Simpson for a wedding on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- D. Request for acceptance of FY2021 Federal Preservation Grant for Carnegie Library Building Assessment.

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

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director gave an overview of the grant. This is a \$12,500 grant with a 50 percent match for a total of \$25,000. The purpose is to conduct a comprehensive conditions assessment to guide the City's future preservation efforts of the structure.

Approval was unanimous.

- E. Authorize City Manager to enter into Contract for Public Education Campaign.

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated this was an RFP for a Multi-Jurisdictional Public Education Campaign. The RFP 2022-104 was advertised on August 19, 2021, and August 26, 2021, in The Island News.

The committee recommends the MRB Group as they are local and have knowledge of South Carolina. Their bid was \$34,975 plus a recommendation of \$15,000 for campaign expenses.

Approval was unanimous.

- F. Ordinance repealing Part 7, Chapter 1, Sections 7-1001 through 7-1027 of the City Code of Ordinances (Business Licenses) and replacing it with the 2022 Model Business License Ordinance - 1st Reading.

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

Kathy Todd gave an overview of the changes being made by rate class. This was discussed in Worksession on August 24, 2021.

Vimal Desai, Business Owner, stated that this seems like terrible timing for businesses in the hotel industry for this increase.

Mayor Murray stated that this must be implemented now by State Law to which Ms. Todd agreed.

Terri Maude, Citizen, asked if a business could dispute a rate classification.

Ms. Todd reported that the class the business is in now, is the same that the business reports under to the Internal Revenue Service.

Approval was unanimous.

G. ATAX Grant Recommendations.

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

Ms. Todd went over the recommendations given by the Tourism and Development Commission for the ATAX Grant funds. There was a total of 7 applicants with a total budget of \$183,135.66.

Mayor Murray made a motion to table the discussions and was seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Approval was unanimous.

This discussion will continue in an upcoming worksession.

H. Authorize City Manager to enter into Contract for Construction - Whitehall Drive Boardwalk Project.

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

Ms. Todd gave an overview of the project as outlined in RFP 2021-119. This was advertised on June 17, 2021, and June 24, 2021, in The Island News. The committee picked O'Quinn Marine Construction with a bid of \$473,592.00. She reported that 100 percent of the costs are being paid for by Beaufort County. Bill Prokop, City Manager stated that we are only managing this project.

Approval was unanimous.

I. Authorize City Manager to enter into Contract for Renovations of Carnegie Building.

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

Ms. Todd stated this RFP 2021-116 was advertised in The Island News on June 3, 2021, and June 10, 2021. The contract is being awarded to Shenandoah Restorations with a bid of \$117,711.00.

Approval was unanimous.

J. Authorize approval of the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

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

Ms. Todd reported that the Fire Department has received a grant for \$418,060.29 in Federal Funding for the continuing education of Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic training. There is a price match of \$41,806.03 for a total budget of \$459,866.32.

Approval was unanimous.

K. Resolution for the Calhoun Stormwater and Streetscape Improvements Project.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- L. Ordinance amending Part 3, Chapter 1, Article A, Section 3-1004 of the City Code of Ordinances, to provide for civil penalties for failure to remove building materials and other obstructions to City Streets beyond time periods established by City Manager - 1st Reading.

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

Bill Prokop, City Manager gave an overview of the Ordinance which is being created to enforce the removal of building materials and other obstructions from City Streets in a timely manner. Currently there is no enforcement tool in place.

Approval was unanimous.

- M. Actions on Boards and Commissions.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee to appoint Henry Brandt, Mickey Minick and Chetan Patel to the Tourism Development Advisory Commission for a term of 3 years to expire on June 30, 2024, and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Approval was unanimous.

Motion was made by Councilman Lipsitz to remove Helen Spaulding from the Election Commission and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Bill Harvey, City Attorney, stated that under Title 7, Section 7-13-75 under the South Carolina Code "No member of a county or municipal board of voter registration and elections may participate in political management or in a political campaign over whose election the member has jurisdiction during the member's term of office. No member may make a contribution to a candidate or knowingly attend a fundraiser held for the benefit of a candidate over whose election the member has jurisdiction. Violation of this section subjects the member to removal by the Governor or appropriate appointive authority."

Mr. Harvey went on to share information about activities that Ms. Spaulding participated in and stated "The Beaufort Municipal Election Commission has jurisdiction over local, state and national elections in the city. It is my opinion that these advertised activities constitute political management, which is prohibited by state law. While you certainly may engage in these political activities, you cannot do so as a member of the City Election Commission."

Approval was unanimous.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Mr. Prokop thanked everyone who attended the 9/11 remembrance event and gave a special thanks to all who helped make this event memorable.

The Live at 5 event is coming up this Thursday, September 16, 2021, downtown.

Please do not forget to attend the Shrimp Festival that is taking place October 1-2, 2021. There are many events that will be fun for everyone.

Reported that the city still continues the relationship with Beaufort Memorial Hospital about helping to fight the COVID virus spread. Please be reminded that anyone entering any city building must have a mask.

Stated that the Comprehensive Plan Draft will be ready for public comment on October 26, 2021. The first reading of the final draft will be on December 14, 2021.

Lastly, Mr. Prokop stated that there have been several lawsuits brought against the city from the Beaufort Historic Foundation and a local developer. These lawsuits and appeals could cost the taxpayers in excess of \$100,000 in legal fees to defend the city's established processes, and committee decisions for the benefit of two parties. A non-profit organization, and a for-profit developer. He stated that unfortunately, we may have to ask council to add a mil to everyone's tax bill in next year's budget or set up a Pride of Place Program called the "No Appeal Fund". He asked the citizens to please stay tuned and learn the facts.

Mayor's Report

Echoed the City Manager's statement and thanked everyone who had a hand in the 9/11 memorial event. He thanked all Emergency Services workers and Public Works personnel as well.

He reported that all the offices in the Beaufort Digital Corridor are occupied. There are many fun things happening at the Corridor, so please check them out.

Stated that Mira International Foods is establishing operations in Beaufort. They bought a building located on Eleanore Fine Road. This is a 2-million-dollar investment that will create 28 jobs.

Thanked Brian and other members of the Public Works Department for helping out with pumps to keep a drainage ditch from flooding a residence during the recent rainstorm.

Appreciates all the Stakeholders that have taken the time to comment on the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Mitchell

Likes the process that is being utilized for the Comprehensive Plan.

Thanked the recent members who were appointed for donating their time to serve on the Tourism Development Advisory Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Thanked the Downtown Operations and Community Services Department for all their work putting the 9/11 memorial together. Also thanked were the military families, and Bridges Preparatory School who came down to help. There were 2,990 luminaries in the park. He also thanked all the restaurants downtown that provided food and supplies.

Is happy to see the renovations to the Carnegie Building moving forward. There will be a Historical Marker placed once construction has been completed.

Councilman Lipsitz

Thanked citizens who came out to the Fire Station to comment on the Comprehensive Plan.

Was sorry to have missed the 9/11 memorial but has received several phone calls on how great the event turned out.

Urged citizens to get vaccinated.

Councilman Cromer

Beaufort History Museum held a board meeting recently, and he wanted to remind everyone of a Santa Elena Traveling Exhibit that is on loan from the Discovery Museum on Hilton Head.

Reported that there will be a re-enactment event at the Arsenal on December 4, 2021. The 59th New York Highlanders and another group will be in attendance.

IX. ADJOURN

8:23 PM

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

All in favor.

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). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.

Traci Guldner

From: Graham Trask <grahamtrask@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:14 PM
To: William Prokop
Cc: Kathleen Williams; Mike McFee; Mitch Mitchell; Neil Lipsitz; Phil Cromer; Stephen Murray; City Attorney Bill Harvey; Traci Guldner
Subject: Re: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

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

Thanks Bill - yes, I see now the Zoom meeting details in red at the top of the agenda for the HDRB and in the Neighborhood Association meeting email. That's great.

My comment on the Zoom details was prompted by the most recent ZBOA and HDRB meetings where it was not printed on the agenda and required me, for one, to fiddle around with Facebook to get the Zoom details only to then go back to Zoom to connect. I'm glad the City has made this improvement.

On the 7 day notice period, I appreciate that you may be under the impression it's working well, but you've received several items of feedback from constituents through time that clearly suggest a longer notice period would be helpful. Have you likewise received vocal feedback from constituents that "they do not want a longer notice period"?

One potentially constructive way for Stephen and you to have responded and address this question is as follows:

- a) thank your constituent for their feedback.
- b) confirm that you understand their feedback
- c) assure them it will be taken into consideration
- d) evaluate what the constraints are that might preclude a longer notice period
- d) evaluate whether any easy fixes exist to address those constraints and compress the internal preparation time to allow for a longer constituent notice period
- e) circle back with the constituent and provide them feedback.

This achieves the following results:

- f) provides you/the city an opportunity to look at your processes for improvement - you know as well as I do that no process is perfect and all can be improved
- g) your constituent goes away feeling validated.
- h) you build trust with the constituent

I'd encourage you to still consider lengthening the notice period by going through the above suggested process or something similar for important meetings and boards such as: City Council, HDRB, ZBOA, and Neighborhood meetings involving the comprehensive plan.

Thanks Bill!

Graham B. Trask

USA: +1 845 337 5770 / Switzerland: +41 22 548 1959

email: grahamtrask@gmail.com

NOTICE: This e-mail contains legally privileged and confidential information intended only for the individual or entity named within the message. Should the intended recipient forward this message to another person or party, that action could constitute a waiver of the attorney/client privilege. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. If this communications was received in error, please notify us by reply e-mail and delete the original message.

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 4:29 PM William Prokop <wprokop@cityofbeaufort.org> wrote:

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit us online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.

Graham: Our Zoom link is printed in red on the top of all council agendas and it has been that way for almost 2 years. We have been advised by the Municipal Assn. that we have one of the best methods of having virtual meeting contact with our citizens. Our virtual meetings will continue as they are and we have now extended the same to our committee meetings. Agenda documents 7 days before the meeting seems to work fine and we are using the drop box when the agenda is large like the 200 pages that you mentioned. The City Clerk will add your request to the next agenda.
Regards, Bill

From: Graham Trask <grahamtrask@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:53 AM
To: William Prokop <wprokop@cityofbeaufort.org>
Cc: Kathleen Williams <kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org>; Mike McFee <mcfemike@gmail.com>; Mitch Mitchell <mmitchell@cityofbeaufort.org>; Neil Lipsitz <nlipsitz@cityofbeaufort.org>; Phil Cromer <pecromer@bellsouth.net>; Stephen Murray <smurray@cityofbeaufort.org>; City Attorney Bill Harvey <bharvey@harveyandbattey.com>
Subject: Fwd: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

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

Following on George's email.

Please see below the email for the HRB meeting which was sent 7 days in advance of the meeting.

A) Why hasn't the Zoom link and information been included in this email to make it explicit for citizens on how to join virtually should they be concerned for their health and not want to join in person; why do you make citizens search for the link in the agenda or on Facebook? Please change your process and include the Zoom link in all emailed meeting notices.

B) While the Zoom link was provided in the September 8, 2021 HDRB agenda, for the last ZBOA and for past HDRB meetings, no Zoom information was provided at all. You required citizens to go to Facebook to get the Zoom information and then go back to Zoom to connect. Why? Again, please make the Zoom link explicit in the meeting notice emails and on the agenda for all meetings!

C) Is it not possible to send out the HDRB agenda documents sooner than 7 days before the meeting? For some meetings, the document is over 200 pages long. It seems to me that our City needs to allow citizens more than 7 days to go through 200 pages of important documents.

I request that you add this email to the minutes of the next City Council meeting and bring my concerns and input up in the New Business section of the next City Council meeting.

Thanks,

Graham

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Julie Bachety <jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org>

Date: Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Re: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

To: Julie Bachety <jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org>

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit us online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.

All,

Below is the link that will allow you to access the agenda meeting packet for the HRB 9/8/21 meeting.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qfizug749ki3ij2/HRB%209-8-21%20Agenda%20Meering%20Packet.pdf?dl=0>

Let me know if you have any issues with the link or questions.

Julie

Julie A. Bachety

Administrative Assistant II

1911 Boundary Street

Beaufort, SC 29902

(P) 843-525-7011

(F) 843-986-5606

www.cityofbeaufort.org

jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org

Traci Guldner

From: William Prokop
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 4:06 PM
To: George Trask; City Attorney Bill Harvey
Cc: Kathleen Williams; Mike McFee; Mitch Mitchell; Neil Lipsitz; Philip Cromer; Stephen Murray; Graham Trask; Stephen Murray; Catherine Ceips Scarborough; Wallace Scarborough; Cynthia Jenkins; Nina deCordova; Traci Guldner
Subject: RE: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

I will have the City Clerk do that when she returns from vacation, next Tuesday. Regards, Bill

From: George Trask <ggtrask@fastmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 2:11 PM
To: City Attorney Bill Harvey <bharvey@harveyandbattey.com>
Cc: William Prokop <wprokop@cityofbeaufort.org>; Kathleen Williams <kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org>; Mike McFee <mcfeemike@gmail.com>; Mitch Mitchell <mmitchell@cityofbeaufort.org>; Neil Lipsitz <nlipsitz@cityofbeaufort.org>; Philip Cromer <pecromer@bellsouth.net>; Stephen Murray <smurray@cityofbeaufort.org>; Graham Trask <grahamtrask@gmail.com>; Stephen Murray <stephen@mayormurray.com>; Catherine Ceips Scarborough <1207ccs@gmail.com>; Wallace Scarborough <wbs224488@gmail.com>; Cynthia Jenkins <cjenkins@historicbeaufort.org>; Nina deCordova <nina.deCordova@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

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

To: City Attorney Bill Harvey

Hello Bill,

I refer you to the following assertions by Mayor Stephen Murray, see below:

Seven days is adequate.

State law only requires 24 hours notice but we well exceed this notice requirement.

Bill, please send to me the relevant City and State ordinance and code provisions that allow our City to give only one-day's notice of upcoming regular City meetings.

Thank you.

George Graham Trask
1211 Bay Street
Beaufort SC 29902 USA
+1.843.471.0075
ggtrask@yahoo.com

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021, at 1:17 PM, Graham Trask wrote:

Hi Stephen - thanks for your quick and direct response.

My email, however, was addressed to William "Bill" Prokop as the City Manager. You appear to have answered in his stead as if you were the City Manager and Bill Prokup. Is that what has happened?

I thought that the City of Beaufort had a separation of powers. It has been my and others' concern for some time that you're confusing your roles and you might believe that you're the mayor and the City manager. I'd request that you and the City Council re-read that section of the law about separation of powers.

As you've taken this opportunity to respond to me directly, I wanted to relate that the support and good will that existed to get you and the other City Council members elected has evaporated over the last 6 months. The City staff and the City Council have become an island divorced from its constituents and seemingly unilaterally focused on one special interest. Unless work is done to close that gap, Stephen, I'm afraid it'll be "one and done" as mayor and City Council with City Hall subsequently restructured.

Bill - I'd appreciate a response to my email.

Yours sincerely,
Graham

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 12:44 PM Stephen Murray <stephen@mayormurray.com> wrote:

Seven days is adequate.

State law only requires 24 hours notice but we well exceed this notice requirement.

The Zoom link should be posted on agendas and I'm told by staff this will occur moving forward.

Thanks,

Stephen

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021, 11:54 AM Graham Trask <grahamtrask@gmail.com> wrote:

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.

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

Following on George's email.

Please see below the email for the HRB meeting which was sent 7 days in advance of the meeting.

A) Why hasn't the Zoom link and information been included in this email to make it explicit for citizens on how to join virtually should they be concerned for their health and not want to join in person; why

do you make citizens search for the link in the agenda or on Facebook? Please change your process and include the Zoom link in all emailed meeting notices.

B) While the Zoom link was provided in the September 8, 2021 HDRB agenda, for the last ZBOA and for past HDRB meetings, no Zoom information was provided at all. You required citizens to go to Facebook to get the Zoom information and then go back to Zoom to connect. Why? Again, please make the Zoom link explicit in the meeting notice emails and on the agenda for all meetings!

C) Is it not possible to send out the HDRB agenda documents sooner than 7 days before the meeting? For some meetings, the document is over 200 pages long. It seems to me that our City needs to allow citizens more than 7 days to go through 200 pages of important documents.

I request that you add this email to the minutes of the next City Council meeting and bring my concerns and input up in the New Business section of the next City Council meeting.

Thanks,
Graham

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Julie Bachety <jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org>

Date: Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Re: HRB 9/8/21 Meeting

To: Julie Bachety <jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org>

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.

All,

Below is the link that will allow you to access the agenda meeting packet for the HRB 9/8/21 meeting.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qfjzug749ki3ij2/HRB%209-8-21%20Agenda%20Meering%20Packet.pdf?dl=0>

Let me know if you have any issues with the link or questions.

Julie

Julie A. Bachety

Administrative Assistant II

1911 Boundary Street

Beaufort, SC 29902

(P) 843-525-7011

(F) 843-986-5606

www.cityofbeaufort.org

jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org

Traci Guldner

From: George Trask <ggtrask@fastmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:52 PM
To: William Prokop
Cc: Kathleen Williams; Mike McFee; Mitch Mitchell; Neil Lipsitz; Philip Cromer; Stephen Murray; City Attorney Bill Harvey; Traci Guldner; Wallace Scarborough; Catherine Ceips Scarborough; Nina deCordova; Cynthia Jenkins
Subject: Re: City of Beaufort Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda notice

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

Mr. William Prokop
Beaufort City Manager

Dear Bill,

While you may "feel" that one week is sufficient for notices, it is NOT. In the case of the current notice of the Neighborhood Meeting, that notice was sent today, which is Thursday, five days before next Tuesday, not seven days. Furthermore, between now and then is exactly ONE BUSINESS DAY, that is, tomorrow, which is Friday, because Saturday and Sunday are the weekend and Monday is Labor Day, a holiday.

You also assume that because some people are on your mailing list and have received a list of meetings as long ago as 10 months, they as well as people not on the list are expected to remember and to be good little citizens and take what is dished out without complaint and even without knowledge. Furthermore, you sometimes have two different people sending out notices of the same meeting, namely Judy Bachety and Kathleen Williams, each containing different or no reference to Zoom/Facebook to be able to attend the meeting virtually.

Further, the City should not be using Facebook at all for public notices. How demeaning and ridiculous that a social network should be viewed by our local government as its primary method of giving public notice. What's wrong with your website? Why doesn't it contain full public notices with Zoom links, etc.? That's where one would logically go to find out, not to some proprietary social chat group that has absolutely nothing to do with our City.

This type of insensitive, uncaring, dogmatic, in-your-face, drop-dead attitude appears to have become the norm in the few months since the new city council was elected. This attitude has been building for some time, expressed not only by council members but by appointed committee members and staff members.

This attitude is incompatible with representative government and will not be tolerated for long by the citizenry, as has been illustrated time and again by South Carolinians and especially Beaufort citizens from the time of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, both of which were provoked and fought by what was perceived by citizens to be the over-reach of government.

Notice is hereby given that Beaufort's city government is now perceived by the governed as being arbitrary and capricious. Reaction cannot be far behind, the most effective of which is to vote the scoundrels out of office and clean house of the hired help.

I ask that this letter be placed in the Minutes of the next meeting of City Council.

Yours very truly,

George Graham Trask
a Beaufort citizen for 81 years
1211 Bay Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021, at 1:21 PM, William Prokop wrote:

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit us online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.

Mr. Trask: Thank you for your email. Our neighborhood meeting has been scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, except for July and August and that has been published for the last 10 months and all neighborhood groups and citizens on our mailing list are all aware of it. I believe your name is now on the mailing list and you will be receiving regular updates. We feel that a one week notice confirming the time and date of a regularly scheduled meeting is adequate. I will have the City Clerk add your email to the councils packet. Regards, Bill Prokop

From: George Trask <ggtrask@fastmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:20 AM
To: William Prokop <wprokop@cityofbeaufort.org>
Cc: Kathleen Williams <kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org>; Mike McFee <mcfemike@gmail.com>; Mitch Mitchell <mmitchell@cityofbeaufort.org>; Neil Lipsitz <nlipsitz@cityofbeaufort.org>; Phil Cromer <pecromer@bellsouth.net>; Stephen Murray <smurray@cityofbeaufort.org>; City Attorney Bill Harvey <bharvey@harveyandbattey.com>
Subject: Fwd: City of Beaufort Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda notice

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

Hello Bill,

I have been concerned for some time about the way the City gives public notice of various meetings. The following notice of a Neighborhood Association Meeting is a good example. Why has only five days' notice been given? It ought to be at least 10 days' notice. People have lives other than waiting to jump when the City announces a meeting.

I have other issues with the way the City has been giving public notices, which I discussed a few weeks ago on the phone with Beaufort Communications/Marketing Manager Kathleen Williams. I am glad to see that Kathleen has made reference to the ability to attend this meeting by Zoom, and I hope she is now making similar reference to Council and Committee meetings by Zoom link instead of making people go to Facebook, which is a commercial site that collects personal information and is therefore not used by many people including me.

I will address any further concerns I have about the City's methods of public notice with you later, but for now I register this complaint about this notice of a Neighborhood Meeting. I ask that this email be placed in the Minutes of the next meeting of City Council.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

George Graham Trask
1211 Bay Street'
Beaufort, SC 29902

----- Original message -----

From: Kathleen Williams <kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org>

To: Kathleen Williams <kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org>

Subject: City of Beaufort Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda notice

Date: Thursday, September 02, 2021 9:13 AM

City of Beaufort buildings are open to the public but we encourage the continued use of the City's online services and scheduling of appointments. At this time, visitors are required to wear masks inside our facilities. Please call or visit us online at cityofbeaufort.org to contact our departments for questions and appointments.



**CITY OF BEAUFORT
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept.7, 2021**

The meeting will be held in person at City Hall. Please come to the Planning Conference Room on the first floor.

This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City's Facebook page.

If you wish to join by Zoom, here is the information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83598240591?pwd=K2xSVFZ0bE5peFNnZmRWWUdYc1hMdz09>

Passcode: 730630

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13017158592,,83598240591# or +13126266799,,83598240591#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 835 9824 0591

AGENDA

- I. Welcome – Kathleen Williams
- II. Introductions from Neighborhood members

- III. David Prichard, director, Community & Economic Development, on 2021 Comprehensive Plan draft
- IV. Rebecca Bowyer, director of engineering, BJWSA, update on Main Transmission project
- V. Capital Waste Services representative
- VI. Updates from City departments
- VII. Updates from Neighborhood members
- VIII. General questions/comments
- IX. Next meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5

Kathleen Williams, APR

City of Beaufort
Communications/Marketing Manager
Cell: 513-490-6520
Office: 843-470-3508

kwilliams@cityofbeaufort.org

Find us:

[facebook.com/CityBeaufortSC](https://www.facebook.com/CityBeaufortSC)

twitter.com/CityBeaufortSC

[instagram.com/citybeaufortsc](https://www.instagram.com/citybeaufortsc)

cityofbeaufort.org