



City Council Regular Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

February 9, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:01PM

Mayor, Stephen D, Murray III

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Phil Cromer

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

IV. MINUTES

- A. Worksession and Special Meeting - August 4, 2020
- B. Special Meeting - August 11, 2020
- C. Special Meeting - August 18, 2020
- D. Worksession and Regular Meeting - September 8, 2020
- E. Worksession - September 15, 2020
- F. Worksession and Regular Meeting - January 12, 2021

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

Minutes approved as submitted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

VI. MINUTES

- A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - July 14, 2020
- B. Worksession and Special Meeting - July 21, 2020
- C. Worksession and Regular Meeting - December 15, 2020

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of passive park plan (9.68 acres) of the Whitehall property

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

Kyle Theodore, Project Manager with Woodland Partners, gave an overview of the project. This is a joint project with Beaufort County.

Approval of park plan was unanimous.

B. Request of cancellation of “A Taste of Beaufort” annual event from the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce

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

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, stated that the City received a cancellation request for this year’s festival from the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. This cancellation request is due to COVID.

Approval was unanimous.

C. Approval to proceed with Scott Street Terminus Upgrades

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

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, stated that she has met with members of Beaufort 300 and with the City’s Park Tree Advisory Committee and suggestions on how the monuments can be placed were made. Both groups were supportive of the plan. She shared the options provided by the Greenery for the upgrades.

Council agreed to proceed with plantings from Plan 1 and landscape from Plan 2.

Approval was unanimous.

D. Resolution consenting to the placement of certain property within the corporate limits of the City of Beaufort in a joint County Industrial and Business Park of Beaufort and Jasper Counties

Mayor Murray stated that per legal advice in Executive Session, they will be tabling this item until all legal documents are prepared appropriately.

Motion to table was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All in favor of tabling.

E. Extension of emergency ordinance requiring individuals to wear face coverings in certain circumstances and locations in the Municipal limits of the City of Beaufort

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

Mayor Murray stated that while we are making progress out of this pandemic, we are not there yet. Our current situation still warrants mandatory masking and social distancing. This

emergency ordinance would extend for 61 days unless the Governor removes the state of emergency. This extension will take us through the middle of April.

Extension of ordinance was unanimous.

F. Appointments to Boards and Commissions - Election Commission

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

Appointees to the Commission were Helen Spalding and Darrell Wallace. They will serve a 6-year term on the Commission.

Appointments were unanimous.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Assistant City Manager, Reece Bertholf, stated that the Spanish Moss Trail Basin 1 regarding the Stormwater project is open for business. In person absentee voting for the Special Election started February 8, 2021 at the Beaufort County Voter Registration office. The deadline for absentee voting is Monday, March 1, 2021. The Southside Task Force meetings have been scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 4pm and they will be available for viewing on the City's Facebook page. The playground equipment is going into the Washington Street Park as we speak. Lastly, for him it has been an honor to work with this team during Mr. Prokop's absence.

Mr. Prokop thanked Council, Reece, and staff for not missing a beat during his absence. The outpouring of good wishes from staff, the community and other municipalities has been unbelievable and so appreciated. Working for the City of Beaufort is not just a job, this is really a community that cares. I am looking forward to coming back.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Murray stated that the search for an Executive Director for the Digital Corridor continues. He congratulated the Town of Port Royal and Beaufort County for the opening of Fort Frederick Park. He concluded by encouraging citizens to go vote in the Special Election.

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer

Interim Mayor Pro Tem welcomed Mr. Prokop back. The Affordable Housing Task Force work is complete. The recommendations will be presented to Council in Worksession soon. He requested that a Resolution be created thanking members of the Task Force for their hard work. He concluded by saying that he and David Prichard attended via Zoom the Beaufort Jasper Regional Affordable Housing Trust Fund. They were able to provide some input. As the Beaufort Jasper Regional Affordable Trust Fund updates their progress, he will advise Council.

Councilman Lipsitz

Councilman Lipsitz welcomed Mr. Prokop back. He gave an update on the first Southside Park Task Force meeting where Brantley Wilson was appointed Chairman. At the first meeting they went through the Southside Park plan and discussed priorities. The common denominator currently appears to be a children's playground.

Councilman Mitchell

Councilman Mitchell welcomed Mr. Prokop back. He also commended Neil Pugliese for a great job with the Stormwater project in Mossy Oaks and the Tree Trimming project.

IX. ADJOURN

7:52PM

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

All in favor.

Disclaimer: 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, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.