



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

February 11, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:00 PM

Philip Cromer, Mayor

Members of Council in attendance - Philip Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Michael McFee, Mitch Mitchell, Josh Scallate.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Michael McFee.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

IV. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

V. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Character Education Proclamation - Conner Smith, Mossy Oaks Elementary School.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Proclamation proclaiming February 2025 as National Black History Month.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. Resolution honoring the memory and contributions of former Port Royal Mayor Henry “Luck” Robinson.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Councilman Scallate asked questions regarding the CIP monthly report.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Items approved are listed below:

- A. Capital Projects Monthly Report.
- B. Community Development Monthly Report.
- C. Downtown Operations Monthly Report.
- D. Finance Department Monthly Report.
- E. Fire Department Monthly Report.
- F. Human Resources Monthly Report.
- G. Municipal Court Monthly Report.
- H. Police Department Monthly Report.
- I. Public Works Monthly Report.
- J. Request from Beaufort Water Festival for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, street closures, sale and use of alcohol, use of seawall, use of day dock, waiver of noise ordinance and sponsorship for Opening Ceremony Fireworks for the 69th Annual Beaufort Water Festival, July 8 - 21, 2025.
- K. Request for co-sponsorship from The Original Gullah Festival for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park and waiver of noise ordinance, May 23 - 25, 2025.
- L. Request from Beaufort County Library for co-sponsorship for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park to host Friends of Beaufort Library Fall Book Sale, November 6 - 9, 2025, request of overnight camping in the park, and fifteen (15) complementary parking spaces.
- M. Request permission to host the 2025 Taste of Beaufort and Arts and Crafts Market in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park on May 2 - 3, 2025, request waivers for sale and use of alcohol, open container, public drinking, noise ordinances, street closures and issuance of parking passes.

VII. MINUTES

- A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - January 14, 2025.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance to amend Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for Revenues and Expenditures of ARPA Fund and Capital Projects Fund - Second Reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, provided a review of the amendment. Councilman Scallate inquired if there are funds set aside for renovations that would take place before the start of Phase Two.

All were in favor, motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance for the lease of commercial space that is part of real property owned by the City of Beaufort, South Carolina, located at 500 Carteret Street to New Story Leasing, LLC - First Reading.

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

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, provided a summary of the lease agreement.

Councilman Scallate pointed out that the agreement needs to be changed from one year to two years in the Terms section.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Request from the Junior Service League of Beaufort for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park and co-sponsorship for the Scales and Tails Kids Fishing Tournament on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. The Perry/Wernsing Wedding requests a waiver of drinking in public, drinking in a public park, and a waiver of the noise ordinance in the Whitehall Park on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 11:00 am - 11:00 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Request from Nick Borreggine to close Bay Street Extension from Carteret Street to New Street, Sunday, March 9, 2025, from 3:30 pm - 10:00 pm, use of Cannon Park and waiver of Police Service costs, and waiver of the drinking in public ordinance to host a fundraiser for CAPA's Dancing with our Stars.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Beaufort, Section 8-2003. - Vehicles and property may be removed - First Reading.

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

JJ Sauv , Deputy City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the ordinance.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- F. An ordinance to amend City Ordinance Number 2024/11 regarding the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 City of Beaufort Budget, to provide for the inclusion of a Schedule of Maximum Allowable Fees for Rotation List Calls - First Reading.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Martin Galvan, 1217 Windswept Oak Lane, spoke about the growing concerns over the recent crime/homicides occurring at the Garden Oak Apartments.

XI. REPORTS

City Manager’s Report

Reported that the new dates for the Council Strategic Planning Session is February 24 - 26, 2025, at the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce on Bladen Street.

Stated that there are now 27 new parking spaces downtown due to an agreement with 303 Associates.

The city is looking into the feasibility of a new sound system for the Council Chambers and Planning Conference Room.

Gave a status update on the Relieving Platform Study for the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park.

Mayor’s Report

Reported on events he attended over the last month that included the Heritage Harvest Event at Penn Center.

Traveled to Columbia, SC to receive a House and Senate Resolution for the 200th Anniversary of the Lafayette Bicentennial Day Celebration to take place on March 18, 2025.

Councilman Mitchell

Reported on events he attended over the last month that included the Lowcountry Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Participated in a Poverty Simulation.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Reported on events he attended over the last month that included the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Valentine’s Day Ball.

Spoke about the upcoming Bands and Brews event in Port Royal.

Councilman Scallate

Reported on events he attended over the last month that included the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board meeting.

Is hoping to attend the Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina Financial Education event.

Thanked all that applied and interviewed for the Waterfront Advisory Committee.

Councilman Lipsitz

Reported on events he attended over the last month that included the Ribbon Cutting for Beaufort Rentals.

Provided condolences on the recent passing of Beekman Webb and Hattie Ficklin.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law:
Discussion regarding the purchase or sale of property.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

No actions from Executive Session.

XIII. ADJOURN

8:56 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 captures all actions taken by Council and summarizes discussions. 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.

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)(e), as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the City's bulletin board and website www.cityofbeaufort.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.

approved: March 11, 2025
Traci Guldner



