



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

February 28, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:17 PM

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. Character Education Proclamation - Isaac Vega, Battery Creek High 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 March 3, 2023, as Old Commons Neighborhood Association 20th Anniversary Celebration Day.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

V. MINUTES

Worksession and Regular Meeting - February 14, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for Co-Sponsorship from First African Baptist and First Scots Presbyterian Churches to host the Annual Community Easter Sunrise Service in the Henry C. Chambers Park on April 9, 2023, 7:00 am to 8:30 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Request for Co-Sponsorship from The Original Gullah Festival for use of the Henry C. Chambers Park and waiver of Noise Ordinance, May 26 - 28, 2023.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Request for Co-Sponsorship from Friends of Caroline Hospice to host Release and Remember Event in the Henry C. Chambers Park on April 29, 2023, at 11:00 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Request from Historic Beaufort Foundation to host the 2023 Spring Architect's Tour on Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, with allowance of parking on Spanish Point Drive.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. Local 1.1% Hospitality Tax Committee Recommendations.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that these funds are to be used for advertising to increase tourism and revitalization of the downtown economy. In the FY 2023 budget, \$27,500 was to be allocated in accordance with the Ordinance. The notice to solicit applications was published in the local newspaper on December 29, 2022. It was also posted on the City's website. There were 9 applications totaling \$126,540.00. The committee's recommendations are as follows:

Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association - \$10,000.00
Beaufort Area Hospitality Association - \$10,000.00
The Gullah Traveling Theater - \$4,000.00
Beaufort Digital Corridor - \$2,000.00
Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce - \$1,500.00

Motion to amend the recommendations from the committee was made by Councilman Lipsitz as follows:

Remove the \$1,500 allocation to the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce and transfer it to The Gullah Traveling Theater.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee seconded the motion.

All were in favor on the amended motion.

The new allocations will be as follows:

Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association - \$10,000.00
Beaufort Area Hospitality Association - \$10,000.00
The Gullah Traveling Theater - \$5,500.00
Beaufort Digital Corridor - \$2,000.00

All were in favor on the main motion, motion carried.

F. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a contract for Copier-Printer Services.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, indicated that Request for Proposal 2023-105, is for multi-function printers as well as copier-printer maintenance services. There were 6 sealed bids received. The committee chose Integrity Business Machines to be the most responsive bidder. The yearly cost will be \$20,460.00. The contract will be in place for 3 years.

All were in favor, motion carried.

G. An Ordinance to amend the City of Beaufort FY 2023 Budget - 1st reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that this is for grants that we have received that were not originally in the budget. The grants received total of \$2,034,357.00:

Grant from the State for Nursing and Cybersecurity \$2,000,000.00
Grant from MASC for Hometown Economic Development \$25,000.00
Grant from South Carolina Municipal Insurance Services Trust for \$2,000.00
Grant from South Carolina Department of Archives and History for \$15,000.00 (A portion was received in FY-2022, with the balance of funds being received in FY-2023).

The expenditures will be as follows:

BMH Nursing Workforce Development Programming \$1,000,000.00
BMH/USCB PATH Development Program \$500,000.00
TCL Cybersecurity Operation Center \$136,400.00
South Coast Cyber Center cybersecurity initiatives \$111,900.00
City of Beaufort cybersecurity initiatives \$276,700.00
Fire Department \$2,000.00
Community Development Department \$7,357.00

All were in favor, motion carried.

H. Resolution adopting CDBG needs assessment priorities.

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

Reece Bertholf, Deputy City Manager, stated this was to prioritize the Community Development needs of the City. He then went over the needs as they rank in order.

All were in favor, motion carried.

I. Appointment to the Cultural District Advisory Board.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Mitchell to appoint Mitzi McClure to the board. Her term will be for 3 years and will expire on June 30, 2026.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Thanked Staff, particularly Kathleen Williams, Linda Roper and Chief McDorman for their part in planning the event held on Saturday in the park to reaffirm our commitment to responsible public safety practices.

Reported that the Chill with a Cop had to be rescheduled due to weather, but the rescheduled event was a big hit last night at Southside Park. Weather was perfect and lots of smiles all around. Thanked our Police and Fire Departments and the Sheriff's Office for having their helicopter on hand.

Reported that the Deputy Chief - Operations position was filled internally yesterday when Chief Ogden promoted Battalion Chief Matt Bowsher to Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Bowsher has been with the department for 15 years.

The city's monthly newsletter was published today and sent to our web site subscribers and others who are on the PIO's email list and is also available via the City's Facebook page.

Said that Public Works has been busy. They have repainted all yellow lines along the city's portion of the Spanish Moss Trail. They have cleaned concrete medians and roadsides in front of Walmart on Robert Smalls Parkway and planted 105 new rosemary bushes on Boundary Street between Outback and Exxon, with additional plantings still to come West of the Exxon station.

Dominion Tree Trimming is nearing an end, with an expected completion date in the third week of March. Many thanks to Neil Pugliese for the success of this project.

We had a successful Bridal Expo this past Saturday at Home2 Suites. After taking a hiatus the past couple years, the event included more than 25 local vendors, who seemed to be quite pleased with the turnout.

There will be free entertainment at Waterfront Park beginning March 11, 2023, with a combined concert from the Parris Island Marine Corps Band and the Fort Jackson Army Band, with more events scheduled for the remainder of the year. Schedule is available on our web page, social media, and newsletter.

The Taste of Beaufort will be held on May 5 - 6, 2023.

First Friday is this week on March 3, 2023, with a St. Patrick's Day theme with a search for the pot of gold.

Lastly, staff is busy preparing for our Strategic Planning Retreat next Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7 - 8, 2023, at the Beaufort Digital Corridor, 500 Carteret Street, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm both days. Public is invited to attend, though seating may be limited. It will also be livestreamed via Facebook.

Mayor's Report

Thanked Councilman Mitchell and all those involved with the organizing of the Tyre Nichols & Our Commitment to Responsible Public Safety event that was held on February 25, 2023.

Congratulated Ron and Rebecca Tucker on another successful Beaufort Film Festival.

Reported that he and Councilman Mitchell attended the Mathers School 155th anniversary.

Stated that the Secretary of the Navy renamed a guided missile destroyer the USS Robert Smalls. It is named after one of Beaufort's native sons.

Congratulated Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority on the ground breaking for their new plant in Purrysburg.

He traveled to Columbia to attend the S.C. House of Representatives Judiciary Constitutional Law Sub Committee meeting. He testified in support of House Bill 3014, the Hate Crimes Act. He thanked the local Mayors for their support in giving him their proxies along with their formal resolutions.

Mentioned that the South Coast Cyber Summit will take place on March 20 - 21, 2023.

Starting March 24, 2023, the Beaufort Digital Corridor will be having their Tech Stars Start Up event. This will last through Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Lastly, he stated that he would be hosting an oyster roast for the USCB students on March 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm. This will take place at the Beaufort Campus. He extended an invitation to Council and Senior Leadership.

Councilman Mitchell

Thanked all those involved with the organizing of the Tyre Nichols & Our Commitment to Responsible Public Safety event that was held on February 25, 2023, especially Chief McDorman and Deputy Chief Price. He appreciated the Town of Port Royal being present as well. Received very positive feedback.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Echoed the sentiments of Council on the Tyre Nichols & Our Commitment to Responsible Public Safety event. Very meaningful.

Reported that he is delighted to be associated with the Beaufort Film Festival and has been since it began. Ron and Rebecca Tucker do an amazing job.

Thanked Port Royal for a wonderful Bands, Brews and BBQ Festival.

Councilman Scallate

Reported that he attended the OCANA meeting on February 16, 2023. There were representatives there from Beaufort County that spoke about the First Responders Project and the 4 year grant they were awarded.

Councilman Lipsitz

Thanked Councilman Mitchell, and others that participated, on a job well done regarding the Tyre Nichols & Our Commitment to Responsible Public Safety event.

Reported that he attended the Lowcountry Council of Governments meeting on February 23, 2023.

Stated that the Police Department did a great job on the Chill with a Cop event.

Had a nice time at the Bands, Brews and BBQ Festival in Port Royal.

Mentioned that he and Mayor Murray attended the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board meeting this morning.

VIII. ADJOURN

8:07 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 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.