



# City Council Worksession

## Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

March 8, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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5:00 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

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

### II. EMPLOYEE NEW HIRE RECOGNITION

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A. Fire Department - Tim Ogden, Fire Chief

**Tim Ogden, Fire Chief**, introduced Brian Hakes and Kenneth Wright.

B. Public Works - Nate Farrow, Public Works Director

**Nate Farrow, Public Works Director**, introduced Pedro Orozco-Ramirez.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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A. Proposed changes to Part 8, Chapter 1, of the Code of Ordinances dealing with solicitation in roadways.

**Dale McDorman, Police Chief**, stated that this has been on their radar since late 2019. With the changes that have been made recently to travel lanes throughout the city, he feels this needs to be addressed. This change would restrict the handing of any item from a motor vehicle that is in the roadway to someone outside the vehicle. This would have no jurisdiction on private property, or in a private parking lot. When granted a permit to do so, the Solicitors are told they must stay on the sidewalk, but they end up going into the travel lanes, and some have come close to being hit. When he was the Deputy Chief, there was a firefighter in Charleston that was killed while soliciting money in this fashion for a Fill the Boot event. He also mentioned that State Law requires that if solicitation permits are issued, that the police department must have someone supervising the activity, and they do not have the manpower to do this.

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**, asked how many permits we receive in a year. Chief McDorman stated that they have already received two this year.

Members of council voiced that they were in favor of pursuing these changes. It will now be sent to the City Attorney for review to make sure all legal issues have been identified, and that the language is correct.

B. Proposed changes to Part 3, Chapter 2, of the Code of Ordinances dealing with day dock time limitations.

**Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director**, stated that it has come to their attention, that boats have been tying up at the day dock and staying for a very long time. The suggestion is to impose a time limit allowed for boats to be tied up at the dock. She stated that in the ordinance, she has referred to this as the Beaufort Waterfront Day Dock. They are recommending that no vessel be allowed to tie up to the Beaufort Waterfront Day Dock between 1:00 am to 6:00 am. And that there be a 3-hour time limit imposed when tying up to this dock in a 24-hour period.

There was also discussion on how far a vessel should be allowed to anchor, or moor, from the seawall. Right now, the ordinance reads within 200 feet of the seawall and the Marina Day Dock.

**Mayor Murray** stated that there is a legitimate argument for encouraging turnover on the dock, just as we do on the streets. He thinks that 3 hours is a reasonable limit.

**Councilman Mitchell** stated that the name day dock, should be changed to visitor's dock.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, stated that maybe the word transient should be used to describe the dock.

This will also be sent to the City Attorney for review.

C. Update on the plans for Council's Strategic Retreat - April 27 - 28, 2022.

**Mayor Murray** stated that this is later than we usually have the retreat, but that the consultant was not available until that time. He stated that the Beaufort Code changes were going to be the primary focus of discussion. The retreat will be held at the St. Helena Library.

## IV. ADJOURN

5:53 PM

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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](http://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](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).