



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

April 11, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

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

II. EMPLOYEE NEW HIRE RECOGNITION

A. Police Department.

Stephanie Price, Deputy Police Chief, introduced George Pirrone.

III. DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion of tours embarking and debarking from the Pat Conroy Center, 601 Bladen Street.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, said that all the tours now leave from the Marina parking lot downtown. The City has been approached by Bill Reynolds, Beaufort Tours, to move his starting and stopping point to the Pat Conroy Center on the corner of Bladen and King Streets. Some of the concerns are parking, regulation, and timing of the rotation of the routes. Tours now leave every 30 minutes among the mid-sized vehicles. If we allow one to move locations, we must allow all to do the same. The ordinance would need to be changed.

Right now, there are 6 walking tours, 4 mid-sized vehicle tours, and 2 carriage tours running from the Marina parking lot.

Councilman Mitchell inquired if there were any potential advantages to this request and should there be more time to allow feedback from the Public.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee asked if there were plans to change the routes.

Councilman Scallate sees this as a benefit to get more business at the Pat Conroy Center and asked if they approve of this request. Ms. Roper said they are very supportive.

Councilman Lipsitz is concerned about there being no cameras in the area, and the limited parking.

Bill Reynolds, Beaufort Tours, addressed Council on this matter.

Mayor Murray stated that he is generally in favor of the request. He is not in favor of adding any more additional tours in the district.

Staff will look into the possibilities of changing the ordinance to increase the number of embarkation and debarkation sites for tours. Each tour company will be contacted to see if any other changes should be made.

B. Strategic Plan draft review.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, presented the results from the Council Retreat regarding the update of the Strategic Plan. He read the proposed Vision Statement and Mission Statement. Fiscal Sustainability is a new key focus area. There are now 5. In the key focus areas, there are 30 guiding principles and 44 initiatives. All have designated start times between Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2026.

Mayor Murray stated that there is a duplicate initiative under key focus area Economic Development and Innovation. Publish an Annual State of Business Community Report of Startups and Closings - New, shall be removed.

Mayor Murray mentioned the new Metropolitan Service Area that is being developed. Said that a decision needs to be made relatively quickly. Not sure if it can be captured in the Strategic Plan but does not want to let it slip by. The deadline is in August.

Mr. Marshall said this can be identified under the key focus area Manage Growth and Protect Natural Resources to consider establishing a separate Metropolitan Planning Organization.

C. Update Army Corps 3x3 Study Letter of Intent.

Reece Bertholf, Deputy City Manager, started off by saying in April 2021, the City of Beaufort gave a Letter of Intent to participate in a 3x3 planning effort with the Army Corps of Engineers. This is the entry study that would result in a potential project to respond to sea level rise and coastal flooding events. The City was contacted and told about the 2022 WRDA bill that was created. There is now an opportunity to expand the scope of any potential project from the perspective of what might cause flooding. In order to take advantage of this the City must amend the most recent Letter of Intent.

Council is supportive of sending an amended letter. Mayor Murray suggested that staff draft a letter for Council to sign, that can be sent to our Federal Delegation.

D. Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2023 Financial update.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, went over the Quarterly Report using Open.Gov, our financial transparency website. The Revenues were \$21,838,085.14, with Expenditures of \$21,567,417.42. The Revenues exceed the Expenditures by \$270,667.72. He also provided the comparisons as they related to the Third Quarter in FY 2022.

Mayor Murray asked that we put a link to the Quarterly Report in the agenda packet to make it easily accessible.

Mr. Eisenman reported that the City received a South Carolina Department of Resilience (SCOR) grant of 7.5 million dollars. This will be used for downtown drainage projects.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

No actions from Executive Session.

V. ADJOURN

7:05 PM

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