



# City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

April 27, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00PM

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

Members of Council in attendance (Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell)

Absent - Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

## II. PRESENTATIONS

### A. Southside Park Task Force Update

**Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director**, introduced Brantley Wilson, Chairman and Jessica Chemsak, Co-Chairman of the Task Force.

**Brantley Wilson, Chairman of the Task Force**, gave some background information on the group and stated that their mission was to review previous master plans, and seek input from the public as to what they would like to see in the park. The survey had 1,171 responses. They broke the responses down into two groups. Under amenities, the top response was for a playground, while the top response under activities was to see community events held there. The top response to what other amenities that should be included in the park was a Splash Pad. Mr. Wilson mentioned that the group wishes to keep an active role beyond the recommendation phase with hopes of transitioning into a Friends of Southside Park group. A few of the other recommendations were to enhance walking trails, install a playground area, and partner with Beaufort County about the creation of dedicated courts for various sports near the tennis courts on Battery Creek Road.

**Councilman Cromer** asked if the playground would be sectioned into age-appropriate groups.

**Mr. Wilson**, stated at this phase that was not discussed, but the group feels that the equipment should be designed for all age groups as well as for those that have physical limitations.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, asked about possibly paving over the existing trail, instead of having a gravel and a paved trail.

**Mr. Wilson**, responded by saying they would not recommend doing that as many liked the natural trails, while others wanted a low traffic paved section near the playground for the kids.

## III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Affordable Housing Task Force recommendations

**Councilman Cromer**, started off by saying that they were going to go through the recommendations that were made, starting with the most important.

**David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director**, stated that the recommendations are based by how the task force voted. There are 10 recommendations in the high category, 11 in the medium. Making sure that the affordable housing initiatives coordinate with the Comprehensive and Civic Master Plans was given the highest priority. Some of the items would also require Council to approve text amendments to the Beaufort Code.

**Councilman Cromer** stated that quite a few of the recommendations are very general and it will depend on staff to see how they can be implemented. Some will be easier to accomplish than others. He also stated that a timeline needs to be established and that the City needs to take the lead to bring the other groups like the Beaufort County Task Force together.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, stated that we needed to remember that there are major retail operations that are planning on coming to the area over the next several years, and there will be an increase in people working in the retail market that will need affordable housing. He posed the question, do we want to have more traffic issues, or have them live close by.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Councilman Cromer made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law:  
Discussion regarding Personnel - Boards and Commissions.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

#### **V. ADJOURN**

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**7:04 PM**

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). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).