



City Council Regular Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

April 27, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:04PM

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

Council members in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell.

Absent - Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Character Education Proclamation - Cameron Norris, Beaufort Elementary School

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

Approval was unanimous.

B. Proclamation proclaiming May 2021 as National Preservation Month

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

Approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Woodlock, 900 Duke Street, stated that there are traffic issues in the Old Commons area and in the Historic District coming off the Woods Memorial Bridge and Carteret Street. He stated as the Beaufort area continues to grow, the traffic on Carteret Street will continue to get worse. He feels that a traffic survey should be done.

Westley Byrne, 1307 North Street, agreed with Mr. Woodlock's comments, as she lives in The Bluff. This has been a discussion in her neighborhood for the past 10 years. This issue needs to be addressed now. She would like to see more four way stops to control the traffic.

Linda Berg, 2005 Cuthbert Street, stated that the Cuthbert Park is zoned T3-S (Suburban District) and hopes that Council would consider rezoning this to T1 (Natural Preserve District). This would protect the sensitive habitats and open spaces and would protect the land from development. She also feels that the Pigeon Point Boat Landing, Pinckney, and Christensen Parks should also become T1.

Cynthia Jenkins stated that an Ad Hoc Committee has been studying the issues regarding the traffic concerns. She will reach back out to the South Carolina Department of Transportation to see what can be done to calm the traffic in the area.

V. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - April 13, 2021

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Release of Committed Fund Balance for land

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave background information on the purchase of the land located at 2234 Boundary Street. This is the location where Wendy's is now. The purchase price is \$525,000.00. Staff is recommending that the first installment of \$260,000.00 be paid from the Committed Fund Balance for land acquisition that is due by April 30, 2021.

Approval was unanimous.

B. Zoning Map Amendment at 1703 Lafayette Street

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

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that Beaufort Midway Development, LLC is requesting to have the property located at 1703 Lafayette Street zoned from T3-S to T3-N. This would allow for increased allowable density for construction. Mr. Prichard stated that this went in front of the Metropolitan Planning Commission on April 19, 2021. They voted 5 - 1 to not recommend the zoning request.

Corey Post, Beaufort Midway Development, LLC stated that he tried to follow and design the project to be compatible with the 2009 Comprehensive Plan and thought it met all the criteria. He stated that there would be a maximum of four cottages, and each would be on approximately 5,000 square feet of land.

All members of Council voted against the zoning amendment.

C. Request for waiver of Alcohol Ordinance and Street Closure from the Historic Beaufort Foundation for a private event on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at the John Mark Verdier House Courtyard

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

Approval was unanimous.

D. Request for River Swim and Challenge event by the YMCA of Beaufort County on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the Waterfront Park and Sidewalks for the 5K run

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

Approval was unanimous.

E. Request for Noise Ordinance Waiver by Young Life of Beaufort for Color Wars event on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at the open field at Beaufort Town Center

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

Approval was unanimous.

F. Emergency Ordinance to strongly encourage individuals to wear face coverings in certain circumstances and locations in the Municipal limits of the City of Beaufort

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

Councilman Mitchell made a motion to amend the words “strongly encourage” to “requiring”.

The motion did not have a second. Amendment failed.

Councilman Cromer made a motion to amend to a Resolution as opposed to an Emergency Ordinance.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that having this remain an Emergency Ordinance, we would still be open for any COVID-19 related funding and wants the Emergency Ordinance to align with the Governor’s Emergency Order. If we do not have this in place, we are stopping all funding possibilities.

Councilman Cromer rescinded his amendment.

Councilman Mitchell stated for the record, he is not against recommending that our citizens continue to wear masks.

Approval was unanimous.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Prokop wants to remind everyone that the Ribbon Cutting for the Mossy Oaks Stormwater Project is on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 10 am. He stated that the project came in under budget.

Council will take their summer break after the July 13, 2021 meeting, and will reconvene on August 24, 2021.

A Public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget will be during the June 8, 2021 Regular Council meeting.

We will resume in-person Council meetings in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. All Boards and Commissions are asked to resume in-person meetings as well. Meetings will still be broadcasted live on Facebook.

Our Historic Preservation Consultants are in town to begin updating the Milner Report. They will also be updating the register of our historical sites.

First Friday will be held on May 7, 2021 with special events to honor our Military Spouses in the Community.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting and unveiling of the Henry C. Chambers signage at the Waterfront Park. Details are forthcoming.

The Waterfront Playground will be closed for repairs starting Monday, May 3, 2021 and will be closed most of the week.

Just a reminder that the swings in the Waterfront Park are being refinished. Two of them have been completed and should be returned within the next few days. All the swings should be done by the end of May.

In closing, Mr. Prokop reminded the public that the mask ordinance is voluntary beginning May 1, 2021. It will be up to the individual businesses if they will still require those entering to wear masks. The wearing of the masks is strongly encouraged and will still be required in all City owned buildings.

Councilman Lipsitz

The Southside Park Task Force has finished their recommendations, and they will be presented to Council on May 11, 2021.

Councilman Mitchell

Stated that he had a follow-up meeting regarding the establishment of the Charles Lind Brown Community Center (Green Street Gym) task force.

Thanked the Southside Park Task Force for considering the establishment of a Community Garden in their recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Nothing to report.

Councilman Cromer

Nothing to report.

VIII. ADJOURN

8:38 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All in favor.

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