



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

May 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:01PM

Stephen D. Murray III, Mayor

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Resolution honoring Mrs. Frieda Mitchell

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Cromer.
Approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Deborah thanked all those involved with the Strategic Plan. She was very pleased to see that there was support in adding an initiative that would help preserve and keep the authenticity of the City.

Edie Rogers thanked Council for returning to in-person meetings.

V. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - April 27, 2021

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.
Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Southside Park Task Force final report and recommendations

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

Brantley Wilson, Chairman of the Task Force gave some background information on the group. He then went over their recommendations, as well as an implementation timeline.

Council thanked the Task Force and City staff for their hard work and dedication.

Approval was unanimous.

B. FY 2021 Budget Amendment, use of TIF II funds for SC170 Sidewalk Project - 1st Reading

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated that this was for the SC170 Sidewalk Project near the entrance to the Spanish Moss Trail. The requested total is \$200,000. This is an estimated budget of \$150,000 plus a contingency of \$50,000.

Approval was unanimous.

C. Authorization to allow City Manager to enter into contracts with IDC Engineers

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave background information on RFQ 2021-114 IDC 01 that is for Professional Civil Engineering and Related Services. Two companies were chosen. Thomas & Hutton Engineering Company, and Mead & Hunt, Inc. Having two firms will give flexibility on future projects. Contract terms are for one (1) year with an option to renew for four (4) additional one (1) year terms.

Approval was unanimous.

D. Authorization to allow the City Manager to enter into a Sales Contract and other Documents for the sale of Parcel R200 015 000 8788 0000 located at 71 Sams Point Road to Beaufort Air Conditioning and Heating, LLC. - 1st Reading

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

Approval was unanimous.

E. Resolution regarding the Local Option Sales Tax in Beaufort County and the City of Beaufort in 2021

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

Approval was unanimous.

F. Resolution adopting the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Approval was unanimous.

G. City Council Summer Break Schedule

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

Approval was unanimous.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Congratulated the Mossy Oaks Storm Water Team for a successful ribbon cutting, and the Beaufort Historic Foundation on their open house and unveiling of the newly renovated John Mark Verdier House.

The Downtown Marina Operator, Safe Harbor, has been awarded a grant of 1.5 million dollars. This grant will allow for the expansion of the dock, along with many other upgrades.

Congratulations are in order for Municipal Judge Mary Sharp. She has been elected President of the South Carolina Bar Association.

The Beaufort Police Department will be starting interviews for the Police Advisory Committee. They are pleased with the response.

A letter has been sent out to residents in the Northwest Quadrant, Old Commons area, that vegetation growth will be cut back at intersections that are considered safety hazards. The Police Department will also be monitoring the speed of vehicles in this area.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting for Lowcountry Stitch on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Live after 5 events downtown will start at 5:00 pm.

The unveiling of the Henry C. Chambers signage at the Waterfront Park will take place on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 3:30 pm. The public is invited to attend.

The playground at the Waterfront Park will be closing for needed repairs in the next few weeks and will be closed for 3 to 5 days.

Reported that the City will be receiving approximately 5.1 million dollars from the American Rescue Fund. A fund will be established, and any requests to spend these funds will be approved by Council in advance. The regulations on how the funds are able to be spent will be forthcoming.

A Special Worksession will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 to go over the proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget. The meeting will start at 5pm. Public Hearing and 1st Reading will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 during the Regular Council Meeting. The 2nd Reading will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Mr. Prokop invited the public to ask any questions that they had about the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). He wants the public to not have any misconceptions about the facts.

Mayor's Report

Congratulated the Beaufort County School District on the receipt of a 12.8-million-dollar grant from the Department of Education that will be spent in Northern Beaufort County.

Welcomed Karl Puckett, a new reporter with the Island Packet, and Jessica O'Brien, as the new Executive Director of the Beaufort Digital Corridor.

Reported that the National Parks Service would like to come down and do a Condition and Integrity Study of our National Historic Landmarks. The City would welcome them to come down and view the Historic District.

A meeting was held with Angela Childers, the Executive Director of the Beaufort Housing Authority, regarding affordable workforce housing. He is looking forward to the partnership.

Councilman Mitchell

Nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Nothing to report.

Councilman Lipsitz

Nothing to report.

Councilman Cromer

Reported that the Beaufort History Museum is having their meeting on Friday, May 14, 2021 at the Convention and Visitors Bureau conference room. Meeting time is 9:00 am. New board members were introduced.

VIII. ADJOURN

8:14 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.