



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

May 23, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:18 PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- A. Character Education Proclamation - Quaeshawn Fields, Whale Branch Early College High School.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Louie Rabinowitz, 2016 Bay Street, is thankful for the lowering of the speed limit on Bay Street but would like to see more police enforcement.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that the notice of Public Hearing was advertised in the Beaufort Gazette on May 5, 2023. The Millage Rate is proposed at 73.9 Mills. The total appropriation is a little over \$57.6 million which is broken down into various funds. General Fund \$23.6 million. Parks and Tourism \$4.3 million. Stormwater \$1.3 million. State Accommodation Tax \$736,000.00. Fire Impact Fee Fund \$129,000.00. American Rescue Plan Act Fund (ARPA) \$215,000.00. Capital Project Fund \$27.1 million.

For revenues, General Fund \$23.2 million. Parks and Tourism \$4.3 million. Stormwater \$1.3 million. State Accommodation Tax \$800,000.00. Fire Impact Fee Fund \$405,000.00. American Rescue Plan Fund (ARPA) \$100,000.00. Capital Projects \$8.7 million. Total revenues of \$39 million.

Graham Trask, Citizen, addressed Council.

VI. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - May 9, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

B. Worksession - May 16, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance to amend Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for utilization of Fire Impact Fee Revenues as down payment for New Fire Truck - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on May 9, 2023. No changes were made since first reading.

Patrick Canning, Burroughs Avenue, addressed Council.

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Ordinance approving and authorizing the negotiation and execution by the City Manager of Intergovernmental Agreements with Beaufort County for the imposition and collection of Impact Fees for Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Library Services - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on November 15, 2022. Second reading was withheld until some scrivener errors could be corrected on Beaufort County's list of Impact Fee Capital Projects to match what the City had originally projected. This has now been accomplished.

Patrick Canning, Burroughs Avenue, addressed Council.

Graham Trask, Citizen, addressed Council.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Council to execute an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stormwater Infrastructure Program Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Beaufort and the South Carolina Office of Resilience to fund a Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project that will mitigate the impact of future disasters.

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

Carrie Gorsuch, Infrastructure Project Support Coordinator, gave background information on the reasoning for the adoption of the resolution. This will be for the City Manager to execute an agreement with the South Carolina Office of Resilience for an awarded grant in the amount of \$7,357,351.00 for drainage improvements along Charles/Craven Street and Port Republic/Carteret Street.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. An ordinance to provide for the levy of taxes for the City of Beaufort for Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024; to provide for execution of and to put into effect the consolidated budget; and to provide budgetary control of the City's fiscal affairs; and other matters relating thereto - 1st reading.

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

Scott Marshall, City Manager, started off by giving the previous dates of all the meetings that took place regarding the budget. The recommended budget is \$57,663,588.00 with \$27.1 million being in the Capital Projects Fund. This is the first time that the Capital Project Funds have been included in the overall annual budget.

Patrick Canning, Burroughs Avenue, addressed Council.
Graham Trask, Citizen, addressed Council.

All were in favor, motion carried.

IX. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

The newly designed website is up and running as of May 18, 2023. Great job by our communications manager, Kathleen Williams. Thanked Council for their input during the redesign process. We think it looks good, with improved functionality as well. Check it out and let us know if you run into any problems. www.cityofbeaufort.org.

This past Sunday was the one-year anniversary of the day we almost lost our former Mayor Billy Keyserling, when he drowned in a boating accident and was revived by emergency responders. Keeping true to his pledge to be trained and certified in CPR, he is inviting others to join him in a CPR certification class this Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Station #2 at 5:00 pm. To register, you can call the Fire Department's main number at 843-525-7055. The fee is \$35.00 to cover the cost of learning materials and certification card.

First Friday, June 2, 2023, there will be a street closure for the Sip and Stroll event downtown.

City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day. He reminded everyone that Memorial Day is not a time for celebration, but rather a time for reflection and remembrance of those military members who made the ultimate sacrifice for the rest of us and the families that must continue without them.

Lastly, we are about to enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer, and with it, Hurricane Season. It's a good time to remember to stay hydrated, wear your sunscreen, look out for one another and be sure your hurricane plan is up to date.

Mayor's Report

Invited everyone to come out for the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony afterwards at the National Cemetery. This will take place on Monday, May 29, 2023, beginning at 10:00 am.

Reported that the Gullah Festival will be taking place this weekend at the Waterfront Park.

Councilman Mitchell

Thanked Reverend Dr. Elijah Washington, who is the Commander of Beaufort's Grand Army of the Republic Camp 21 for his continued leadership in coordinating our Memorial Day celebrations.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Stated he would be attending the next Housing Coalition and the Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee meetings.

Councilman Scallate

Recognized all those in the Emergency Medical Services field as this week is National Emergency Medical Services Week.

Councilman Lipsitz

Stated he attended The Point Association picnic.

Thanked Kathleen Williams on the new City Website redesign.

Attended the Southern Lowcountry Regional Meeting earlier today.

Congratulated Phil Cromer on being named the President of the Beaufort County Historical Society.

Council thanked staff for all their hard work in preparing the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

Some members of Council attended the Old Commons Neighborhood Association meeting.

X. ADJOURN

8:30 PM

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at 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.