



City Council Worksession
Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

June 13, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01 PM

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. Court and Legal.

Sarah Farrow, Municipal Court Administrator, introduced Monique Carr and Omecia Clark.

B. Fire Department.

Tim Ogden, Fire Chief, introduced Cory Hagens, David Khalili, and Lucas Maclellan.

C. Police Department.

Dale McDorman, Police Chief, introduced Jacob Brainerd and Ian Webber.

D. Public Works Department.

Nate Farrow, Public Works Director, introduced Danell Morrell and Kashawn Nix.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Interviews of Applicants for Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Council held a question-and-answer session for all applicants.

Tourism Development Advisory Board - Randy Novick.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Marc Sviland.

Military Enhancement Committee - Teri Maude.

B. Update on Washington Street Park Project.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, gave some history on the park, and went over the improvements that were made in Phase I. Bathrooms were added as well as updating playground equipment. She stated that Phase II will include adding a pavilion and relocating the half basketball court. An adjacent multipurpose court and wall will also be included. This phase has been initiated. An Environmental Study was completed in April and is now awaiting approval from the SC Department of Commerce. The estimated cost of Phase II is \$1,275,000.00. \$330,000.00 in grant funding has been secured. A November 2024 completion date is planned.

The following addressed Council:

Marc Sviland, 1105 Greene Street
Graham Trask, 1211 Bay Street
Dan Blackman, Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association

IV. DISCUSSIONS

A. Memorandums of Understanding between the City of Beaufort Police Department and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

Dale McDorman, Police Chief, stated there are four MOU's for consideration at this time. They are for the Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, Crime Scene Unit and the Special Weapons and Tactics Teams (SWAT). He stated these would allow us to provide advanced training and specialty assignments to further our retention efforts and provide a better quality of service to our community. Furthermore, these agreements allow for cost sharing, providing additional benefits while being fiscally responsible.

Councilman Scallate is concerned about the language in Section 22 that speaks to the automatic termination of the agreement that mentions a 30-day period if one of the parties should leave employment.

Council would like to see this language changed to 60 days. Chief McDorman will contact the Sheriff about changing the language.

B. Extension of Public Defender Agreement.

Sarah Farrow, Municipal Court Administrator, started off by stating that the City currently has a multi-jurisdictional agreement with the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defenders Office that will expire on July 1, 2023, as per the terms of the ACLU settlement agreement from October 2019. The City of Beaufort, Town of Bluffton, and the Town of Port Royal each provide funds towards shared indigent defense services.

An increase of \$16,666.67 for each entity is to be added to help fund an additional attorney. One is needed to help with the increasing case load.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, stated that this has been factored in to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

C. Resolution to continue membership with the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization and to adopt the geographical boundaries for the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, mentioned that in December 2022, the Bureau of Census defined a new Urbanized Area, based on the 2020 Census data, with a combined population from the Town of Port Royal, the City of Beaufort and unincorporated parts of Beaufort County has reached the 50,000 and over mark. This qualifies us to be a new urbanized area. We are now able to establish a separate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or continue to be a part of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO). He stated that the attached resolution affirms the City's preference for the new urbanized area to remain a part of LATS. This is a uniformed resolution that other municipalities will also consider.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, stated after discussions by the Committee, it was deemed beneficial to stay in LATS as a group instead of branching out.

V. 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) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding Personnel - Boards, Commissions, and Committees.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of Legal Advise - regarding litigation.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

VI. ADJOURN

7:18 PM

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.