



# City Council Special Worksession Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

October 11, 2022

## I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

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

## II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Candidate interviews for the Beaufort Housing Authority Board of Directors and the Regional Housing Trust Fund Board.

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

Heather Brennan-Fleury, Ethan James, Jeremiah Smith, Dick Stewart, John Warley, and Lolita Watson.

### B. Public Safety update.

**Dale McDorman, Police Chief and Tim Ogden, Fire Chief**, gave an update on the ways in which their departments are trying to solve the issue of vacancies. Chief McDorman reported that retention is a problem nationally. MSgt Dobbins has been going to job fairs throughout the State. He has been recruiting through the colleges and other agencies. He stated they have contacted other Law Enforcement Agencies who are having success with retention to find out their processes. Chief Ogden stated they have been advertising lateral moves that target the certified firefighter with comparable pay and the 48 hours on, 96 hours off work schedule.

**Councilman Cromer** inquired if they are targeting other areas of the state to see if there are retiring police officers elsewhere that might want to relocate and continue to work. Chief McDorman stated that they have been mainly targeting the Northern part of the state, but they are looking to expand.

**Councilman Mitchell** questioned if any internal, anonymous surveys have ever been done to field some of the concerns that are within the police and fire departments. He feels these could be beneficial to hear their concerns without fear of reprisal.

**Chief McDorman**, reported that the Class 3 Security officers will now be working City events and will also patrol the Spanish Moss Trail and City parks.

**Chief Ogden**, spoke about the Paramedic program. He said that thanks to the relationship with Beaufort Memorial Hospital, the students can do their clinicals at the hospital instead of having to travel to other locations.

C. ARPA Funds Allocations update.

**Alan Eisenman, Finance Director**, reported that the City received the second tranche payment of 3.3 million dollars this week. He recapped that the funds have to be encumbered by December 31, 2024. They must be spent by December 31, 2026. He then went over some of the changes that have been made since the last update. They took some funds from the Security Camera Upgrades and moved them into the AC unit replacement at 500 Carteret Street. The Stormwater Infrastructure was \$4,000,000.00 and that has been reduced to \$3,875,000.00, so that a Storm Drain Trailer Mounted Pipe Jetter and Root Cutter for \$125,000.00 could be added.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, reported that we are still awaiting funds from Beaufort County.

**Nate Farrow, Public Works Director**, spoke about the Pipe Jetter and Root Cutter.

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**, inquired about past costs associated while having to subcontract storm drain clearing work out to other agencies. He stated this would be a cost savings to have the equipment on hand.

**Mayor Murray** mentioned that the vast majority of the stormwater drains are owned by the State. He has some reservations about spending money in this capacity, but that he is supportive of this request, as he knows they need the proper tools to do the job.

### III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Councilman Cromer made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of legal advice regarding the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding Personnel - Administration, Boards and Commissions.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

### IV. ADJOURN

**7:18 PM**

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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). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).