



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

October 11, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:18 PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

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 recognizing the Beaufort History Museum.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Howell Beach, 310 Federal Street, proposed a project for the Mayor for his Riley Mayors' Fellowship project.

V. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - September 27, 2022.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2023 ATAX Grant Award recommendations.

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

Mayor Murray stated that there was a question about Accommodations Tax (ATAX) expenditures and funds that the City uses for tourism and product development that are taken out before the Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) gets the applications to make their recommendations.

Mr. Bill Harvey, City Attorney, reported that State Statue Section 6-4-25 dealing with the Advisory Committee does say that the Advisory Committee must look at all applications and make recommendations. He stated that State Statue Section 6-4-10 very clearly states that this section does not prohibit a municipality, or county, from using accommodations tax, or general fund revenues for tourism related expenditures. With that statement, he believes the City has the right to use funds for tourism related expenditures as it deems fit.

Motion to amend the recommendations from the Tourism Development Advisory Committee was made by Councilman Cromer as follows:

Reduce the Destination Marketing for Greater Beaufort-Port Royal Convention & Visitors Bureau from \$160,000.00 to \$156,000.00 and reduce their Sales Plan from \$35,000.00 to \$31,000.00.

Reduce the Friends of Hunting Island from \$40,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

Reduce SC Lowcountry & Resort Island Tourism Commission from \$35,775.00 to \$25,775.00.

Increasing the Mather School Promotion from \$4,000.00 to \$8,000.00.

Increasing The Gullah Festival from \$0.00 to \$10,000.00.

Increasing the Gullah Traveling Theatre from \$6,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

Increasing the Beaufort History Museum from \$0.00 to \$5,050.00.

Total: \$321,110.17.

As part of this amendment, all proposed recipients in order to be reimbursed, must be current with the State on their non-profit status.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Mr. Holman addressed Council on this matter.

All were in favor on the amended motion.

Approval on the main motion was unanimous.

Note: The following amounts remained the same.

Beaufort Area Hospitality Association \$10,000.00.

Tabernacle Baptist Church \$10,000.00.

Port Royal Sound Foundation \$6,100.00.

Beaufort Area Sports Council \$12,000.00.

Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail \$2,185.17.

- B. Request from The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor to host a Street Fair Celebration on Saturday, October 29, 2022, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with street closures.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for Sale and Purchase, to consent to a Development Agreement, and to execute such other documents as may be necessary for the sale by the City to Magnus BCP2, LLC of Parcel K (8+/- acres) in the Commerce Park for the construction of a Speculative Industry Building - 1st reading.

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

John O' Toole, Executive Director, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation, gave background information on the growth that has taken place at the Commerce Park over the years. He then stated that the second Speculative Building would be contracted with Magnus Corporation, and the building would be 72,000 square feet.

All were in favor, motion carried.

D. Appointment/Reappointments to Boards and Commissions.

Motion to appoint Ethan James, Dick Stewart and John Warley to the Beaufort Housing Authority Board of Directors was made by Mayor Murray and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Motion to appoint Dick Stewart to the Regional Housing Trust Fund Board was made by Mayor Murray and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Motion to appoint Councilman Mitchell to the Defense Community Partnership Task force through the Military Enhancement Committee was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Thanked all law enforcement agencies, school district personnel, and the first responders, who responded to events that took place at a few of the local schools this past week. It shows that we have strong mutual aid support and well-trained personnel.

Was relieved to see that we did not receive any major damage from Hurricane Ian. He thanked the Beaufort City Team, especially Public Works for all their hard work. Thanked Beaufort County Public Works, and the State Department of Transportation for helping to ensure that stormwater drains were clear.

Thanked all that helped make the Beaufort Shrimp Festival a success, especially Downtown Operations.

Was nice to see those that attended the ribbon cutting of the Beaufort Low Country Landing Pad at 500 Carteret Street.

The Pigeon Point Boat Landing will remain closed until the pylons can be inspected. They were damaged when a vehicle ran into them.

He reported that the Stormwater work in the marsh on Battery Creek Road near Southside Park has been permitted. Work will begin soon.

Announced that Thursday, October 13, 2022, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the USCB Arts Center, the Cultural Commission will be displaying the next set of hand painted benches that will be placed throughout the City.

Thanked John O'Toole and Charlie Stone with the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation, along with Magnus Corporation for bringing another Speculative Building to the Commerce Park.

Wanted to mention again that the City of Beaufort has agreed to work with Beaufort County jointly on expanding and improving the plans to develop the Southside Park, that will include County owned

property. The scope of work has been expanded for the engineers and designers to plan for additional Pickleball Courts. No set number has been determined at this time. There will also be a full basketball court and improved restroom facilities. He stated that the County is also going to make improvements to the Charles Lind Brown Center (Green Street Gym) with a special area for the community to have continued around the clock access. Thanked Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Administrator, the administrative staff, and Beaufort County Council for their cooperation. Most of the cost for these improvements will be paid for by the sale of property owned by the City and the County.

There will be a Halloween event on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will take place at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park.

He stated that Halloween in the City will be celebrated on Halloween Day. October 31, 2022.

Mayor's Report

Thanked Beaufort County for their part in the upcoming improvements to the Charles Lind Brown Center (Green Street Gym) and Southside Park. He also thanked them for taking over the responsibility of the Election Commission.

Thanked the City of Beaufort Team, and Beaufort County Emergency Management for all the preparations that were made ahead of the impending storm.

Commended all agencies on their aggressive and rapid response to the events that happened last Wednesday at some of the local schools.

Reported that there are 27 days left until Election Day. Thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve.

Councilman Lipsitz

Congratulated Bill Prokop, City Manager, who will be the recipient of the Life Time Achievement Award through the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Civitas Awards.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Stated that he has an upcoming meeting with the Residential Empowerment Coalition for Beaufort County. They meet to discuss homeless and insecure housing issues.

Reminded all about the "History of Hymnology" musical that will take place on October 23, 2022. The event is being held at the Carteret United Methodist Church. Tickets are available through USCB.

Councilman Mitchell

Reported that he is working with Sarah Brock, Clerk to County Council, to honor the late Mr. Alvin Settles for all he did for teaching water safety in Beaufort.

Councilman Cromer

The Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce is going to be having a Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. The event will start at 6:00 pm at USCB.

All members of Council thanked everyone who helped to make the Beaufort Shrimp Festival successful.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

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