



Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

Beaufort County, SC

This meeting will be held both in person at the County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, and virtually through Zoom.

Monday, February 26, 2024

1:00 PM

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**MARK LAWSON, CHAIRMAN
DAVID P. BARTHOLOMEW
YORK GLOVER**

**ANNA MARIA TABERNIK, VICE-CHAIR
GERALD DAWSON
JOSEPH F. PASSIMENT, EX-OFFICIO**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Committee Chairman Mark Lawson
Committee Vice-Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member York Glover 1:18 p.m.
Chairman Joseph Passiment

ABSENT

Council Member Thomas Reitz
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member David Bartholomew
Vice- Chairman Lawrence McElynn

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chair Lawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, POSTED, AND DISTRIBUTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Committee Chairman Lawson noted that the public notification of this meeting had been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Chairman Passiment, to approve the agenda.

The Vote- The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 22, 2024, Special Called Meeting

Motion: It was approved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik to approve the January 22,2024 minutes.

The Vote- The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD- 15 MINUTES TOTAL

No citizen comments.

7. ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT- Denise Christmas, CFO

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=125>

8. FINANCIAL UPDATES THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024 - Denise Christmas, CFO

(Items 8 & 9 were presented together)

AGENDA ITEMS

9. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE 2023/22 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 TO APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER \$250,000 FROM FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (2546) TO COVER UNBUDGETED COSTS FOR THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS; TO INCLUDE THREE (3) SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS' BUDGETS (FUNDS 2230, 2252, AND 2255) IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$402,918 WHICH WERE CONVERTED TO THE GENERAL FUND DURING THE CHART OF ACCOUNTS CONVERSION PROCESS; TOTAL AMENDMENT OF BUDGET ORDINANCE 2023/22 IS \$652,918

Denise Christmas, Chief of Financial Operations, presented to the committee the recommendation for the appropriation of the \$250,000 for Daufuskie Ferry operations, which was approved at the Beaufort County Council meeting on December 11, 2023. Amend Budget Ordinance 2023/22 for Fiscal Year 2024 to appropriate \$250,000 from the General Fund's Fund Balance for unbudgeted Daufuskie Ferry operations costs and reclassify three special revenue funds as general funds. An increase in the County's operating budget of \$652,918

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, to recommend approval of first reading of an ordinance to amend Beaufort County Council Budget Ordinance 2023/22 for the fiscal year 2023-2024 to appropriate and transfer \$250,000 from fund balance of the General Fund to the Special Revenue Fund (2546) to cover unbudgeted costs for the Daufuskie Island Ferry Operations; to include three (3) Special Revenue Funds Budgets (FUNDS 2230, 2252, and

2255) in an aggregate amount of \$402,918 which were converted to the General Fund during the Chart of Accounts conversion process; Total amendment of budget ordinance 2023/22 is \$652,918.

The Vote- The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=653>

10. PRESENTATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S FY25 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

John O'Toole, Executive Director of Beaufort County Economic Development Corporations (BCEDC), presented the Economic Development Corporation's FY25 Product Development Plan. The presentation of sites and plans was given. Funds are being requested to acquire land and extend required utilities to attract potential economic projects to diversify the county's economy and build a more solid employment base. Mr. O'Toole would like to encourage the Council to include funds (\$19,070,000) for the upcoming year(s) to continue the pursuit of site acquisition and development.

BCEDC will continue to pursue projects that are in sync with the scale and environmental expectations of the community. With the ongoing success at the Beaufort Commerce Park and must look for sites that would be suitable in the future. BCEDC is asking the council to consider creating a revolving fund of \$19,070,000 to seize short-, medium-, and long-term development opportunities. As opportunities arise, the funds would reside with the county and will be requested for specific acquisitions and infrastructure build-out. Proceeds realized from the sales will replenish this fund. It is expected that the expenditure of these funds would have a significant net impact on Beaufort County in the near term and benefit future generations.

The Committee directed staff to work with Mr. O'Toole and bring back a proposal with identified funding source to move the plan forward.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=873>

11. A DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAY FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY POLL WORKERS

Don Lucas, Chairman of the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County, presents the committee with a discussion of additional supplemental pay for Beaufort County Poll Workers.

Poll Managers Compensation, State Reimbursement to Counties defined by Proviso. The poll manager's compensation is \$60.00 for prelection training and then \$75.00 for election day, a total of \$135.00. The poll clerk is compensated \$60.00 for prelection training and \$135.00 for election day, a total of \$195.00. The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County requests an additional supplemental pay of \$100 per Poll Worker for the June 2024 election. The request from the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County is \$80,000.

The Motion: It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Brown to approve the \$100 supplement to poll workers for the remaining of the fiscal year.

Council Members Howard and Glover recused themselves from the presentation, discussion, and voting for this item.

The Vote- The motion was approved without objection. 2 Recusals.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=3244>

12. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 TAXATION, ARTICLE II ACCOMMODATIONS TAX BOARD, DIVISION 1. GENERALLY AND DIVISION 2. ACCOMMODATIONS (3%) TAX

Deputy County Attorney Brian Hulbert presented a recommendation for an amendment to Chapter 66 Taxation, Article II, Accommodations (3%) tax.

The South Carolina Legislature ratified Act 57 on May 17, 2023, and the Governor approved and signed it on May 19, 2023. Act 57 amended South Carolina Code of Laws Section 6-1-530 relating to the use of revenue from local accommodations tax and Section 6-4-10 to provide that the development of workforce housing is one of the purposes for which funds from these two accommodation taxes may be used. The Act further provides that the County may not expend or dedicate more than fifteen percent of its annual local accommodations tax revenue from the two local accommodations tax funds (state 2% and local 3%) for the development of workforce housing. The Act also allows for the use of revenue to finance bonds and requires local governments to prepare a housing impact analysis before using the 2% State ATAX funds for workforce housing, which must be done before giving a second reading to the comprehensive plan amendment ordinance. The development of workforce housing must include programs to promote home ownership.

Motion: It is moved by Chairman Passiment, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik to recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 66 Taxation, Article II Accommodations Tax Board, Division 1. Generally and Division 2. Accommodations (3%) tax.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=5412>

13. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 TAXATION, ARTICLE V HOSPITALITY TAX OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Deputy County Attorney Brian Hulbert presented a recommendation for an amendment to Chapter 66 Taxation, Article V Hospitality Tax of the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances.

The South Carolina Legislature ratified Act 146 on September 25, 2020. The Governor approved and signed it on September 28, 2020, and it became effective on September 28, 2020. Act 146 amended South Carolina Code of Laws Section 6-1-730 (A) relating to the use of revenue from Local Hospitality Tax to add two additional purposes in subparagraphs (7) and (8). The new purposes provide that the funds could be used for: A (7) control and repair of flooding and drainage within or on tourism related lands or areas; and (8) for site preparation for items in this section including, but not limited to, demolition, repair, or construction."

Additionally, the Act added a new paragraph (c), which provides that funds used for subsection (A)(7) the revenues must be expended exclusively on public works projects designed to eliminate or mitigate the adverse effects of recurrent nuisance flooding, including that which is attributable to sea-level rise, or other recurrent flooding. The public works projects must be within or on tourism-related lands or areas.

Requesting to amend the Local Hospitality Tax Ordinance to it in compliance with current state code.

The Motion: It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Howard to recommend approval of an Ordinance amending Chapter 66 Taxation, Article V Hospitality Tax of the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=5699>

14. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE STATE A-TAX FUNDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE A-TAX COMMITTEE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF SC CODE OF LAWS

Vote at First Reading on January 22, 2024- 6:5

Vote at Public Hearing and Second Hearing on February 12, 2024- Recommend to move back to Finance, Administration, and Economic Committee 9:2

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Passiment, seconded by Council Member Brown, to postpone the recommended approval of an Ordinance appropriating funds from the State A-Tax funds as recommended by the State A-Tax Committee in compliance with the requirement of the SC Code of Laws to the next Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee meeting.

The Vote- 5/2

Objections: Committee Chairman Lawson and Council Member Glover

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=6728>

15. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR TRAFFIC OPERATIONS (FISCAL IMPACT: \$165,436)

Assistant County Administrator of Infrastructure Jared Fralix presented to the committee a recommendation to execute the purchase of a bucket truck for traffic operations.

The Traffic Operations department is currently facing several challenges with their bucket trucks. All three of the three trucks they utilize are currently unserviceable. Two were recently involved in vehicle accidents (Asset #41995 and Asset # 45810), and one is in disrepair due to the unavailability of obsolete parts (Asset #23266). These issues are hindering the effective functioning of Traffic Operations and the maintenance of the county's traffic infrastructure. There is a bucket truck available on the lot that is ready for service. This presents an opportunity for Beaufort County to address the equipment shortage and ensure that Traffic Operations has the necessary resources to carry out its duties effectively.

A quote has been provided from Custom Truck One Source for \$165,436. The funding source for this item is Fleet Management account # 5000-10-3500-54000. \$87,025 was reimbursed to Beaufort County Internal Service Fund from the insurance claim.

Staff recommends the purchase of a new bucket truck for traffic operations for \$165,436 to replace Asset 41995

The Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Tabernik to recommend approval to execute a purchase of a bucket truck for traffic operations.

The Vote- The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=7183>

16. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF CISCO ENTERPRISE SUPPORT AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Cisco EA renewal for Beaufort County VoIP telephones and network equipment is needed. Renewal of the contract will allow the department to get continued updates and technical support on Cisco Equipment.

The Motion: It is moved by Chairman Passiment, seconded by Council Member Brown, to recommend approval of Cisco Enterprise Support Agreement renewal.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=7229>

17. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

The Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the Boards and Commissions appointments and reappointments.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

Recommend approval of the reappointment of Bruce Doneff to the Beaufort County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four-year term with an expiration date of February 2028.

Recommend approval of the reappointment of Stephen Koch to the Beaufort County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four-year term with an expiration date of February 2028.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/298318?ts=7270>

18. ADJOURNMENT – 3:03 pm.

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<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Ratified: May 20, 2024