



Special Called Meeting of County Council Beaufort County, SC

Council Chambers, Administration Building Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls
Complex 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Monday, July 24, 2023
10:30 AM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Council's discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/267577>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Vice-Chairman Lawrence McElynn
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member Thomas Reitz

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. FOIA

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTIONS 30-4-70(A)(2) AND 30-4-70(A)(1), TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE ON MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PERSON REGULATED BY COUNCIL

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Brown, to enter into an executive session pursuant to S.C. Code Sections 30-4-70(A)(2) and 30-4-70(A)(1) to receive legal advice on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege and to discuss issues related to the employment of a person regulated by Council.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Council was in the executive session from 10:32 AM to 12:32 PM.

5. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Passiment provided the following statement: On Monday afternoon, July 10, 2023, a meeting was held in the executive conference room, known as our ECR. At that meeting were Mark Lawson and Anna Maria Tabernik, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance, Economic and Administration Committee, myself, and Larry McElynn, Chair and Vice-Chair of County Council, along with Tom Keaveny, County Attorney representing the Council, and Brittany Ward, County Attorney representing the County. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss issues of compliance with the County's procurement codes, budgets, and P-card policies, among other issues. After a lengthy discussion regarding this matter, it was decided that Ms. Ward would gather additional information regarding these matters and present this additional information to the people listed that attended that meeting. Another meeting was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, to review the additional documentation regarding these issues. Upon review of the additional information, it was determined that a Special Meeting of County Council should be held today (July 24, 2023) to share the information with the entire Council. As a result of the executive session, the following motions are being contemplated.

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Lawson, to place the County Administrator, Eric Greenway, on Administrative Leave with pay until further notice and to appoint Assistant County Administrator for Public Safety, John Robinson, to serve as Acting County Administrator during this time; Mr. Robinson's supplemental compensation will be \$3,000 per month while serving in this capacity.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Howard, to authorize the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee to contract with one or more professionals or professional firms to conduct a thorough review of all purchases that have occurred since January 1, 2023, to confirm that those purchases comply with the County's procurement codes, to identify any purchases that do not comply with County's procurement codes, to bring to Council those that do not comply, and to provide a description of the discrepancies; funding will come from Council's Contingency Fund, and the Acting Administrator will bring forward a budget ordinance amendment to fund these contracts if necessary.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to authorize the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee to contract with one or more professionals or professional firms to conduct a thorough review of all contracts for professional services which the County has entered into since January 1, 2023, to confirm that those contracts comply with the County's procurement codes, to identify any contracts that do not comply with the County's procurement codes, to bring to Council those that do not comply, and to provide a description of those discrepancies; funding will come from Council's contingency Fund, and the Acting Administrator will bring forward a budget ordinance amendment to fund these contracts if necessary.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to authorize the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee to contract with one or more professionals or professional firms to conduct a thorough review of the Beaufort County's procurement codes to provide the County with recommendations for updates, revisions, new measures, or other changes which it believes are needed in order to strengthen the procurement code if needed; funding will come from Council's Contingency Fund and the Acting Administrator will bring forward a budget ordinance amendment to fund these contracts if necessary.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Vice-Chairman McElynn, to authorize the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee to contract with one or more professionals or professional firms to conduct an audit of the County's p-card system for the fiscal years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and to report findings to Council along with recommendations for changes, if any; funding will come from Council's contingency fund, and the Acting Administrator will bring forward a budget ordinance amendment to fund these contracts, if necessary.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Chairman Passiment provided the following statement: We realize that everyone wants to know the reason or reasons that caused us to take the decision to place Mr. Greenway on administrative leave, to hire an Acting Administrator, to conduct the various items that we have passed motions on, and that will happen. We will give the reason or reasons. Consistent with County policy, we cannot say more at this time because this is an ongoing personnel matter. Our legal advice has told us that we could jeopardize our standing at any time discussing a personnel matter until it is completed. There will come a time when we can talk about it openly and freely, and we will do so, but we are not there yet. So please be patient with us as we go through this process together.

6. ADJOURNMENT

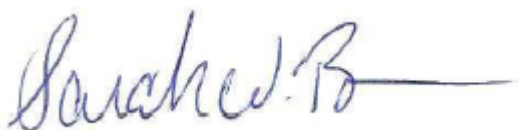
Adjourned: 12:44 PM

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



BY: _____
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:



Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council
Ratified: August 14, 2023