



## 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, November 25, 2024**

**3:00 PM**

#### MINUTES

*The video stream of this meeting is available on the County's website:*

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246>

#### 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 3:01 pm.

Council Member Logan Cunningham 3:33 pm - 4:26 pm

#### PRESENT

Committee Chair Mark Lawson  
Committee Vice-Chair Anna Maria Tabernik  
Council Member David Bartholomew  
Council Member York Glover  
Chairman Joseph Passiment  
Council Member Cunningham  
Council Member Paula Brown  
Council Member Alice Howard

#### ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson  
Vice-Chairman Lawrence McElynn  
Council Member Thomas Reitz

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman 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 has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the agenda.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- October 28, 2024**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Brown, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the minutes from October 28, 2024.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

**6. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD- 15 MINUTES TOTAL**

*Anyone who wishes to speak during the Citizen Comment portion of the meeting will limit their comments and speak no longer than three (3) minutes. Speakers will address Council in a respectful manner appropriate to the decorum of the meeting, refraining from the use of profane, abusive, or obscene language. In accordance with Beaufort County's Rules and Procedures, giving of a speaker's time to another is not allowed.*

Mark Fienburg

*To hear the full portion of Citizen Comments:*

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=95>

**7. ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

John Robinson, Interim CFO, Finance Report.

Valerie Althoff, Budget Transfers

Christine Webb, General Fund Balance

Ebony Sanders, Assessor

*To hear the full report:* <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=237>

**8. ARPA UPDATE - Hank Amundson, Special Assistant to County Administrator**

*To hear the full update:* <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=1960>

**9. UPDATE FROM BEAUFORT - JASPER WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY - Charlie Stone, Director of Government Affairs**

*To hear the full update:* <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=4028>

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**AGENDA ITEMS**

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**10. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF AN ARPA PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT, THE PURCHASE OF LICENSE PLATE READING CAMERAS FOR THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**(FISCAL IMPACT: \$262,291.34 ARPA ACCOUNT # 2330-10-0000-54200)** - Beaufort County Sheriff's Department

Due to the increase in gun violence within Beaufort County, Sheriff P.J. Tanner directed a review of available systems to help decrease gun violence through ways of identifying the perpetrators in building cases leading to their arrest. While reviewing the issue with law enforcement agencies in the county and the town of Hilton Head Island, it was discovered that Beaufort City, Bluffton Township, and the Town of Hilton Head Island were all moving forward with plans to purchase and install Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). This clearly showed the need for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) to implement a plan so that the unincorporated areas of Beaufort County would be covered to the level of the incorporated locations.

Justification for the program from the Sheriff's Department is in agenda backup material along with the procurement process.

The purchase of \$262,291.34 and licensing are to be funded by ARPA funds.

Due to the cancellation of the Reconstruction Era National Parks Signs program, funds were available to support this initiative for the Sheriff. The Administration supports it, and efforts in municipalities mirror it.

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Brown to Recommend Approval to Council of an ARPA Project for Public Safety Support, the Purchase of License Plate Reading Cameras for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

**Vote:** The motion was approved 6:1

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=5242>

11. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BEAUFORT COUNTY PERSONNEL HANDBOOK POLICY SECTION 4.2 HOLIDAYS & HOLIDAY PAY AS AMENDED TO ADD JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A COUNTY-OBSERVED HOLIDAY (FISCAL IMPACT: Any fiscal impact is negligible)** - Katherine Mead, Beaufort County Human Resources Director

County Administration recommends that the Council consider approving the addition of Juneteenth National Independence Day as a county-observed holiday for employees.

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to Recommend Approval to Council of a Resolution Amending the Beaufort County Personnel Handbook Policy Section 4.2 Holidays and Holiday Pay as Amended to Add Juneteenth National Independence Day as a County-Observed Holiday.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=7254>

12. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF A LIVE OAK TREE AT WHITEHALL PARK FROM THE FRIENDS OF WHITEHALL PARK** - Stefanie M. Nagid, Passive Parks Director

The Friends of Whitehall Park requested the County to accept a donation of one (1) live oak tree at Whitehall Park that will replace the loss of an oak tree that fell during the winter storms of December 2023. The tree is currently available, and the Friends would like to plant it in December 2024.

There is no impact on the County. Friends of Whitehall Park are solely responsible for the cost of the tree and its planting (\$4,000).

**Motion:** It is moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, to Recommend Approval to Council of a Resolution Accepting the Donation of a Live Oak Tree at Whitehall Park from the Friends of Whitehall Park.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=7254>

13. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF AN ORDINANCE TO INVEST \$4,300,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN AN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT BEAUFORT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT (ARW) TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT HANGERS. (FISCAL IMPACT: *Each option improves ARW's financial position. The backup package contains the details of each option. Option 2 provides a favorable combination of investment and project financing that provides significant benefit to the County by executing a project that will generate revenue immediately upon completion. This revenue (from hangar rent and increased fuel sales) will help fund important deferred airfield safety and facility maintenance projects. The increase in based aircraft also increases aircraft property tax revenues.*) - Jon Rembold, Airports Director**

Beaufort Executive Airport has a crisis-level shortage of hangar space. All hangars are occupied, and there is a 68-person waiting list. The airport has a total of 34 T-hangars. On 8/19/24, the Public Facilities Committee directed airport staff to work with the finance staff to develop funding options for the hangar development project. The funding shortfall is \$3,900,000. On 10/23/24, airport staff presented options to the Finance Committee. Based on feedback from that meeting, the current suite of options is being offered for consideration.

The hangar project includes constructing 2 "box" and 20 "T"-style hangars at ARW to provide Beaufort County citizens with aircraft hangar space. These refined funding options were developed for the Finance Committee's consideration. The funding package provided in the agenda's backup material describes the details of each option.

Option 1: \$4,300,000 investment from the General Fund to the Airport to fund the project.

Option 2: (Recommended) \$2,150,000 loan from the General Fund to the Airport and a \$2,150,000 investment from the General Fund to complete the project.

Option 3: \$4,300,000 structure loan from the General Fund to the Airport to complete the project.

Each option improves ARW's financial position. Option 2 provides a favorable combination of investment and project financing that provides significant benefit to the County by executing a project that will generate revenue immediately upon completion. This revenue (from hangar rent and increased fuel sales) will help fund important deferred airfield safety and facility maintenance projects. The increase is based aircraft also increases aircraft property tax revenue.

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Bartholomew to Recommend Approval to Council of an Ordinance to Invest \$4,300,000 from the General Fund in an Infrastructure Development Project at Beaufort Executive Airport (ARW) to Fund Construction of Aircraft Hangers using Option 2: \$2,150,000 30 year loan at .5% from the General Fund to the Airport and a \$2,150,000 investment from the General Fund to complete the project as amended.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Chairman Passiment, Seconded by Council Member Glover to Recommend Option 2: \$2,150,000 30 year loan at .5% from the General Fund to the Airport and a \$2,150,000 investment from the General Fund to complete the project.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=7417>

**14. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT OPERATIONAL GRANT AWARD FROM THE COASTAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S BEAUFORT FUND GRANT PROGRAM (FISCAL IMPACT: Receipt of \$14,000 to be applied to the Beaufort County Human Services Department "Contributions" 2503-50-0000-47030) - Ben Boswell, Director Human Services**

The Southern Lowcountry Regional/Beaufort Fund Grant Program provides support across program areas, based on the applicant's service area, in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. Operational Grants are awarded to non-profits (including government agencies) that have existed for at least five years or have a budget of more than \$300,000 and have applied to the Beaufort fund at least once in the past.

The Beaufort County Human Services Department works in close partnership with eligible families to coordinate services, collaborating with key stakeholders such as state agencies, local government bodies, the school district, non-profit organizations, and other entities, both public and private. Engaging families in decision-making is crucial for creating tailored and effective support plans, as their insights ensure services are relevant and comprehensive. This involvement fosters empowerment, better communication, and stronger relationships, leading to improved and sustainable outcomes for participants.

Collaborative service coordination is vital for delivering comprehensive, efficient support to youth and other program participants. It enhances resource accessibility, improves communication, and ensures a holistic approach to service delivery, ultimately leading to better and more sustainable outcomes for individuals and communities.

Receipt of \$14,000 to be applied to the Beaufort County Human Services Department "Contributions Account 2503-50-000-47030.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik to Recommend Approval to Council of a Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Accept Operational Grant Award from the Coastal Community Foundation's Beaufort Fund Grant Program.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full update: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=8249>

**15. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH PROJECT MICRO (FISCAL IMPACT: Company will be offered equivalent to base FILOT – 6% over a 20-year period) - John O'Toole, Executive Director, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation**

The EDC recommends that the county provide Project Micro with a Special Source Revenue Credit (SSRC). If the Council approves this SSRC, it will essentially serve as the equivalent of a base fee in lieu of tax (FILOT), allowing the company to pay the equivalent of a 6% tax rate over a 20-year period.

Project Micro is locating its operations in Beaufort County in an existing facility at Garden's Corner. The company is expected to invest \$7.1 million to create 42 new jobs in the next five years.

Because the facility Project Micro is relocating into already exists and new construction is not required, they are not eligible for a FILOT agreement. In order to offer benefits on par with a base FILOT, the BCEDC would like to pursue a special source revenue credit. This will be added to an existing MCIP with Jasper County.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Brown, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to Recommend Approval to Council for Beaufort County to Enter into a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement with Project Micro.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=8348>

16. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL TO PLACE LAND PURCHASED BY PROJECT MICRO INTO AN EXISTING MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK – Project Micro (FISCAL IMPACT: Allocation of revenue would be 99% to Beaufort County and 1% to Jasper County in the Beaufort County portion of the park and 99% to Jasper County and 1% to Beaufort County in the Jasper County portion of the park. This project would fall within the Beaufort County portion of the park) - John O’Toole, Executive Director, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation**

Placing Project Micro into the existing Multi Industrial Park will allow the company to take advantage of an additional \$1,000 job tax credit per net new job. As long as the jobs are maintained, these credits can be used towards the company's corporate income tax over a five-year period.

Project Micro is moving its operations to Beaufort County and into an existing facility at Garden's Corner. Over the next five years, the company is expected to invest \$7.1 million and create 42 new jobs.

Revenue would be allocated 99% to Beaufort County and 1% to Jasper County in the Beaufort County portion of the park and 99% to Jasper County and 1% to Beaufort County in the Jasper County portion of the park. This project would fall within the Beaufort County portion of the park.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to Recommend Approval to Place Land Purchased by Project Micro into an Existing Multi-County Industrial Park- Project Micro.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=8400>

17. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION TO SERVE UNDERSERVED AREAS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY TO CONNECT HOLDING, LLC (AKA BRIGHT SPEED) FOR RFP #111824 (BEAUFORT COUNTY BROADBAND PROJECT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$367,069 TO BE FUNDED WITH ARPA FUNDS. (FISCAL IMPACT: \$367,069 of remaining ARPA funds Acct. # 2330-40-0000-54100) - Hank Amundson, Special Assistant to County Administrator**

ARPA funds may be utilized to extend broadband services into underserved areas. In February 2022, the County Council identified broadband expansion to rural and underserved areas of the County in their original ordinance receiving those ARPA funds and allocating those funds.

In October 2024, Beaufort County issued an RFP for Broadband Expansion in underserved areas. The State of South Carolina identified this target area.

The result of the RFP that was put out in October 2024 was that four companies proposed plans to serve the target area and homes shown to be underserved. After receiving and reviewing the proposals, proposals were scored and ranked. At that point, interviews were held with the two highest-scoring proposers.

After interview, the two finalist were re-scored. Bright Speed emerged as the best fit for the project. Bright Speed will be investing \$1,632,416 and the County will fund the remainder of the expansion with ARPA funds totaling \$367,069

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Brown, to Recommend Approval to Council to Award a Contract for Broadband Expansion to Serve Underserved Areas of Beaufort County to Connect Holding, LLC (AKA Bright Speed) for RFP #111824 (Beaufort County Broadband Project) in the Amount of \$367,069 to be Funded with ARPA Funds.

**Vote:** Motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=8400>

18. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE BROADBAND EVERYWHERE - CATEGORY 3 (BE-CAT3) GRANT PROGRAM END DATE AND ALLOW US TO EXPAND THE REMAINING \$170,000 OF ARPA FUNDS IN ORDER TO SERVE NEW CUSTOMERS REACH BY ONGOING AND UPCOMING BROADBAND EXPANSION PROGRAMS.(FISCAL IMPACT: \$170,000.00 from ARPA funds to be used for Broadband assistance.)** - Hank Amundson, Special Assistant to County Administrator

This program is designed to aid residents without broadband access where the cost of extending to the home is a barrier to service from the provider. Beaufort County aims to use ARPA funds allocated for Broadband to fund the construction of a service drop to homes that have been denied service from the provider due to construction build costs.

The original resolution set the end date for December 30, 2024. The extension should be for December 30, 2026, to aid new customers in areas to be newly served by ongoing and upcoming county and state funded Broadband Expansion programs.

\$170,000 will be used from ARPA funds for broadband assistance.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover to Recommend Approval to Council of a Resolution to Extend the Broadband Everywhere - Category 3 (BE-CAT3) Grant Program End Date and Staff to Expend the remaining \$170,000 of ARPA Funds in Order to Serve New Customers Reach by Ongoing and Upcoming Broadband Extension Programs.

**Vote:** The motion was approved without objection

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=8400>

19. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE BEAUFORT COUNTY LOCAL ACCOMMODATION TAX AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX FY25 LIST OF COUNTY PROJECTS. (FISCAL IMPACT: None- All projects must be properly procured and come back to committee and council as appropriate prior to funds being committed. Dollars amounts listed in the schedule are estimates which must be fully vetted via the planning and procurement process)** -John Robinson, Assistant County Administrator - Public Safety

On August 26, 2024, the County Council approved the Local Hospitality Tax and Local Accommodations Tax budgets for Fiscal year 2024-2025 (Ordinance 2024/31 and Ordinance 2023/30). The Local Hospitality Tax budget included \$4,975,000 for county projects, and the Local Accommodations Tax budget included \$2,900,000 for county projects, totaling \$7,875,000. These funds were appropriated for tourism-related county projects.

The list of projects presented incorporates incomplete county projects previously funded via local A-Tax and Local H-Tax from FY21 through FY 23 and unfunded capital projects that qualify and are consistent with County Council Strategic Planning goals. Staff received funding requests from qualifying departments, then met to prioritize project needs.

No fiscal impact. All projects must be properly procured and come back to committee and council as appropriate prior to funds being committed. Dollar amounts listed in backup material are estimates which must be fully vetted via the planning and procurement process

**Motion:** It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Bartholomew to Recommend Approval to Council of a Resolution to Establish the Beaufort County Local Accommodation Tax and Local Hospitality Tax FY25 List of County Projects

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=9361>

20. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT A FEDERAL SUBAWARD GRANT FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR**

**\$23,229.60. (FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact. No matching funds are required) - John Robinson, Assistant County Administrator - Public Safety**

Beaufort County Mosquito Control applied for and has been awarded a grant from the South Carolina Department of Health in the amount of \$23,229.60. This is a Federal Subaward grant with no matching funds required. This grant aims to assist in obtaining mosquito control-related items to respond effectively to public health threats and nuisance mosquitoes hampering recovery efforts caused by post-tropical system mosquito population surges.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik to Recommend Approval to Council to Authorize the County Administrator to Accept a Federal Subaward Grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Health for \$23,229.60.

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=9430>

**21. DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK MITCHELL OR MARK PRESNELL TO THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM WITH THE EXPIRATION DATE OF NOVEMBER 2028.**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the reappointment of Patrick Mitchell to the Stormwater Management Utility Board for a Four-Year Term with an Expiration Date of November 2028.

**The Vote:** The motion passes 5:2

**Roll Call Vote:** Yea: Committee Chair Lawson, Council Member Glover, Chairman Passiment, Council Member Brown. Nay: Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Council Member Bartholomew

**Motion:** It is moved by Council Member Bartholomew, Seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik that Mark Presnell is qualified to be recommended at Council for appointment to the Stormwater Management Utility Board if the Recommendation for Patrick Mitchell does not receive a 10/11 vote.

**Roll Call Vote:** Yea: Council Member Bartholomew, Committee Chair Tabernik, Council Member Howard, Council Member Brown, Committee Chairman Lawson Nay: Council Member York Glover, Chairman Joseph Passiment

**The Vote:** The motion passes 5:2

**22. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard to Recommend Approval of the Appointment of John Teter to the Design Review Board for a Four-Year Term with the Expiration Date of November 2028.

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard to Recommend Approval of the Appointment of Denise Procida to the Design Review Board for a Four-Year Term with the Expiration Date of November 2028.

**The Vote:** The motion was approved without objection.

To hear the full discussion: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/321246?ts=9464>

**23. ADJOURNMENT**



Adjournment: 5:53

Ratified: January 27, 2025