



Beaufort County Caucus

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County Administrator

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County Council Caucus Minutes

Monday, July 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM

[This meeting is being held virtually in accordance with Beaufort County Resolution 2020-05]

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Vice Chairman D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member Michael Covert
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Stu Rodman
Council Member Chris Hervochon
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Lawrence McElynn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Gerald Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Covert, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling to approve the agenda without objection.

FOIA

Clerk to Council, Sarah Brock, stated public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Administrator Jacobs stated that Creech and Associates has started the Facilities Master Plan study and administration should have a report from them in late January. She also informed council that Evergreen is conducting a classification study and administration should have a report by the end of August.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

Julie Herlands, with Tischler Bise, presented the law enforcement service charge study.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chairman Passiment discussed his meeting with the Town of HHI pertaining to the Uniform Service Fee and referenced the notes below.

Town/County Funding Discussions June 24, 2020

Services Funded from Property Taxes for which Hilton Head Island receives no services

- EMS
- Parks Maintenance (and programming?)
- Operation of convenience centers – previously addressed??
- Traffic Engineering

Agreement to address convenience centers and trash collection and disposal issues equitably

Credits

- Base level of service
- Offsets to BCSO contributions
 - EMS, Parks, Traffic Engineering
- Additional credit for assumption of partial Emergency Dispatching functions
- Recognition of property tax contribution and POA security provisions

EMS

County spends \$7.5M from Property taxes (net of ambulance fees)

Town estimate to serve HHI (4 ambulances versus current 8 ambulances): \$1.75 million

Parks

County's \$141,415 seems mighty low; and ignores deferred maintenance; but a start

Traffic Engineering

Probably a modest amount

Dispatching

Town estimate for County to cover the 5,000 calls we process annually: \$1.76 million

BCSO Funding

Reputed costs:		\$4.4 million
Credits:	Base level of service to all County residents, businesses, guests:	??
Credits:	Town's outsized contribution to County tax base:	??
Credits:	Town's significant amount of land area served by private security:	??
Credits:	EMS, Parks, Traffic Engineering, Dispatching:	\$3.65 + million

Parks maintenance clarification

- Maintenance of County owned parks? Barker Field? Hilton Head Park?
- Programming at Barker Field?
- Boat Ramp and pier maintenance?

MEETING NOTES OF THE JUNE 24TH MEETING

- The meeting was held as a virtual meeting using a program called Bluejeans.
- In attendance representing Hilton Head Island were Mayor John McCann, Township Administrator Steve Riley, and Town Council member Tom Lennox.

- In attendance representing Beaufort County were Chairman Joe Passiment, Council member Chris Hervocho, County Administrator Ashley Jacobs, and Public Works Director David Wilhelm
- Several items were discussed as listed in the attached agenda.
- **EMS** has been operated as a stand-alone program since 1993. Since Hilton Head Island pays taxes for a county wide EMS system as part of the taxes raised in the Sheriff's budget they feel that they should receive this cost should be a credit against the cost of the sheriff's budget. That cost is estimated to be approximately \$1.75 million but has not been confirmed.
- **Convenience Center** on Hilton Head Island. Dave Wilhelm stated that since the county does not own the property that serves as the convenience center for Hilton Head Island it would be problematic to install the decal system there since this would involve a capital cost on property that we do not own. There is also concerns about the size of the property that would require a new configuration under the decal program. Hilton Head informed us that there is some additional land that could be used to expand the convenience center which could make the decal program work at that site and Hilton Head would be willing to turn over this land to the county in exchange for two county owned parks that would be turned over to Hilton Head Island.
- **Parks.** Hilton Head is willing to take over the maintenance of all parks located on Hilton Head Island that are currently owned and/or maintained by the County. County Administrator Jacobs would issue an MOU for insurance purposes until the exchange of land used for Parks could take place. These items would be brought forth to the proper county committee(s) for recommendation to the full council.
- **St. James Church and property jointly owned on Beach City Road** A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss moving forward on the relocation of the church to other land. This has been going on for a long long time and it needs to be resolved. Jon Rembold, the Airport Director has been put in the middle and he should not be the person who must deliver the news as to what the FAA is willing to fund for this project. This needs t be resolved before the FAA says they do not consider this project to be a priority. Also discussed was property that is own by both Hilton Head and the county jointly. Steve Riley is having an agreement drafted that would maintain the joint ownership but have Hilton Head take the lead in managing the property as they move forward with the Mitchelville project.
- **Sheriff's budget.** Hilton Head is looking for credits against the sheriff's budget as stated above regarding EMS. They also feel that they pay more in property taxes than they get in services. Chairman Passiment pointed out that they have had an ordinance since 1983 that states they shall have an intergovernmental agreement for public safety services and that we have records showing the amount that has been paid for those services since at least 2006. We also have a written contract spelled out in detail what those services were, including basic and ancillary services and was signed by the county administrator, the township manager, and the sheriff. That changed once this contract expired in January of 2018. There is now an MOU in place that was signed by the township manager and the sheriff. Chair Passiment stated that there only a few options for resolution in this matter. We can establish a contract that spells out the terms and conditions for the sheriff services. There is a basis for the costs of the sheriff's services. Tischler Bise just completed a study that uses specific methodology to determine the costs of the sheriff's services. This could be used in construction a new contract. If that is not acceptable the County could use this study to develop a Law Enforcement Service Charge for the Town of Hilton Head. Town of Hilton Head believes that this is not legal. The last, most undesirable option would be to go to court. Both sides agree that this is the last resort.
- This information will be brought to our respective members of council to discuss and give direction as to the next steps to take place

AGENDA REVIEW

Chairman Passiment stated that based on conversations during an earlier committee meeting, Council agenda items 12, 13, and 14 will not be acted upon at the Council Meeting.

Council Member Flewelling stated he was going to make a motion at the beginning of the Council meeting to amend the agenda to include First Reading by title only of an ordinance regarding a Beaufort County Uniform Law Enforcement Service Charge for the Town of Hilton Head Island.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Rodman to go into Executive Session to discuss matters related to an employee regulated by County Council. Motion was approved without objection.

6:00PM - The meeting was not adjourned and Executive Session will continue upon the conclusion of the County Council Meeting.

Executive Session continued at 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30PM