



## County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, June 27, 2022  
6:00 PM

### MINUTES

*Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Council's full discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176273>*

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Sommerville called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

#### PRESENT

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Council Member Flewelling led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

#### 3. FOIA

Vice-Chairman Sommerville stated that 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 Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Lawson to approve the agenda.

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to insert at item number twelve a motion to include on the agenda a discussion regarding the proposed Green Space Ordinance and to renumber all of the items flowing after the new number 12 in a succeeding fashion.

**The Vote** - The motion to amend was approved without objection.

**Main Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve the amended agenda.

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

## 5. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Please watch the video stream available on the County's website to view the full report.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176273?ts=284>

County Administrator Eric Greenway recognized employees David Lilly, Terry Geitner, and Corporal Catrina Wilson.

## 6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Please watch the video stream available on the County's website to view the public comments.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176273?ts=755>

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League, expressed support for the green space sales tax referendum.

Cathy Robine, Beaufort County School District, urged Council to pass the School District's budget.

Paula Brown, newly elected Council Member, expressed her excitement to join the Council in January 2023.

Senator Tom Davis discussed the Road Fees Bill and thanked Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Rodman, and Vice-Chairman Sommerville for their service on the Council.

## 7. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Rodman highlighted items from the Public Facilities Committee and the continued collaboration to develop an access plan for Beaufort High School.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SESSION

Please watch the video stream available on the County's website to view the full discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176273?ts=1423>

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to authorize the County Administrator to continue negotiations and initiate legal action to establish public ownership of the real property with TMS No. R800 021 000 006C 0000 and R800 021 000 006B 0000, collectively commonly known as Melrose Landing.

**Discussion:** Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Glover, and Council Member Cunningham opposed the motion.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Rodman. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Glover, and Council Member Hervochon. The motion passed 8:3.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Rodman, to approve the first reading by Title Only of an Ordinance to appropriate funds in order to establish public ownership

of real property with TMS No. R800 021 000 006C 0000 and R800 021 000 006B 0000, collectively commonly known as Melrose Landing.

**Discussion:** Vice-Chairman Sommerville commented on the Daufuskie Island Ferry.

Council Member Flewelling objected to the motion and discussed the funding source with County Administrator Greenway.

Council Member Rodman expressed his view that proceeding with condemnation may allow for the possibility of negotiations.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Rodman. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Glover, and Council Member Hervochon. The motion passed 7:4.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Rodman, to authorize the County Administrator to continue negotiations and initiate legal action to establish public ownership of real property with TMS No. R552 010 0000 0648 0000 and R552 010 000 0649 0000, located on Helmsman Way, Hilton Head Island.

**Discussion:** Council Member Cunningham objected to the motion and expressed his view that other options, such as Pickney Island, have not been fully explored.

Council Member Hervochon expressed concerns about the project's expense and highlighted Pinckney Island as a more optimal ferry location.

Council Member Rodman discussed ferry service issues and opportunities and his opposition to the Pinckney Island landing suggestion.

Council Member Lawson commented on the promise to relocate from the Buckingham Landing location and concerns about ferry costs and service limitations.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Howard, Council Member Rodman, and Council Member McElynn. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Hervochon, and Council Member Glover. The motion passed 7:4.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the first reading by Title Only of an Ordinance to appropriate funds in order to establish public ownership of the real property with TMS No. R552 010 000 0648 0000 and R552 010 000 0649 0000, located on Helmsman Way, Hilton Head Island.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chair Sommerville, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Howard, Council Member Rodman, and Council Member McElynn. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Hervochon, and Council Member Glover. The motion passed 7:4.

**9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the consent agenda.

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

**10. THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the third reading of an Ordinance to make appropriations for County Government, Special Purpose Districts for Beaufort County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2022.

**Discussion:** Council Member Rodman referenced the second reading discussion on funds for the Solicitor's Office and his view that the DUI program should continue.

Council Member McElynn commented on the DUI backlogs, the willingness of the Sheriff's Department to prosecute DUI cases, and the possible redirection of funds away from the Solicitor's Office pilot program.

Council Member Glover asked a series of questions about fund allocations.

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

**11. THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAX FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR SAID PURPOSES**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Rodman, to approve the third reading of an ordinance to provide for the levy of tax for School Purposes for Beaufort County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2022, and to make appropriations for said purposes.

**Discussion:** Council Member Rodman commented on competitive salaries, consideration of a tax increase, the cost of living in Beaufort County, and his support for the budget.

Superintendent Frank Rodriguez and Tonya Crosby discussed budget expenditures, including provisions for increased employee compensation.

Council Member Lawson and Superintendent Rodriguez discussed school security.

Council Member Cunningham, Superintendent Rodriguez, Tonya Crosby, and Patricia Fidrych addressed School Board budget discussions and recruiting and retention benefits.

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

**12. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A 2022 GREENSPACE SALES TAX REFERENDUM**

Please watch the video stream available on the County's website to view the full discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176273?ts=5157>

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Rodman, to introduce an ordinance by title only to levy and impose a sales and use tax subject to a referendum within Beaufort County in support of the County Greenspace Sales Tax Act recently enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly.

**Discussion:** Senator Davis urged consideration of a ten-year half-penny sales tax for 350 million dollars to address development pressures and protect fragile ecosystems.

Council Member Glover and Senator Davis discussed the differences between the rural and critical lands program and the proposed greenspace program.

Council Member Cunningham voiced his preference for four years at a half or full penny sales tax.

Council Member McElynn and Senator Davis discussed the potential of postponing the transportation referendum to 2024 to allow time to secure federal and state funding for road projects.

Council Member Howard and Senator Davis discussed leases with options to purchase.

Council Member Glover raised concerns about two referendums on the ballot and funding limitations.

Council Member Hervochoon, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Senator Davis, and County Administrator Greenway discussed the financial benefits of development and the interplay between the proposed greenspace program and rural and critical lands program.

Council Member Rodman noted his support for a full penny sales tax, the political feasibility of a half-penny tax, and potential state and federal transportation funding.

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

**Motion to Extend Meeting:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to extend the meeting beyond 8 PM.

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

**13. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A 2022 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX REFERENDUM**

**Motion to Postpone:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling, to postpone the approval of the Second Reading of an Ordinance for a 2022 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum until July 11th meeting.

**The Vote** - The motion was passed without objection.

**14. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS 36 HUNTER ROAD FOR THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT (FISCAL IMPACT: PROPOSED PURCHASE PRICE \$947,500; FAA VIA BIL AIG GRANT REIMBURSEMENT \$814,500; AIRPORT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR \$133,000 WHICH WILL BE PAID WITH ARPA FUNDS)**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Lawson, to approve the Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents and provide funding for the purchase of real property identified as 36 Hunter Road for the Hilton Head Island Airport Expansion Project.

Vice-Chairman Sommerville opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Vice-Chairman Sommerville closed public comment.

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

**15. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH BEAUFORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (BMH) FOR THE FUNDING AND LAUNCH OF A PILOT PROGRAM TO ENHANCE THE NURSING WORKFORCE (FISCAL IMPACT: THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY ARPA FUNDS- TWO YEAR PROGRAM COST OF \$700,000)**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon, to approve a Resolution to authorize the County Administrator to sign necessary documents with Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) for the funding and launch of a pilot program to enhance the Nursing Workforce.

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

Council Members voted on and approved items 15, 16, 17, and 18 as a package.

**16. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH BEAUFORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT THE DETENTION CENTER (FISCAL IMPACT: \$1,000,000 OF ARPA FUNDS; 3-YEAR INITIAL TERM CONTRACT WITH ANNUAL RENEWALS BY CONSENT OF THE PARTIES- BUDGETING \$250,000 ANNUALLY)**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon, to approve a Resolution to authorize the County Administrator to sign necessary documents with Beaufort Memorial Hospital for Mental Health Services at the Detention Center.

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

17. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND BEAUFORT-JASPER-HAMPTON COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PROPERTY AT 6315 JONATHAN FRANCIS, SR. ROAD (\$90,000: \$18,000 ANNUALLY FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS)**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon, to approve a Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute a Lease Agreement between Beaufort County and Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. for the property at 6315 Jonathan Francis, Sr. Road.

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

18. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2022 PALMETTO PRIDE LITTER ENFORCEMENT GRANT AWARD (\$3,200)**

**Motion:** It was approved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon to approve a Resolution to accept the 2022 Palmetto Pride Litter Enforcement Grant Award.

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

19. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Paula Brown commented on the sale of Melrose Place.

20. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 8:17 PM.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council  
Ratified: August 8, 2022