



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, April 15, 2024
3:00 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 3:00 pm.

PRESENT

Committee Chairman Mark Lawson
Committee Vice-Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member David Bartholomew
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Thomas Reitz
Chairman Joseph Passiment
Vice- Chairman Lawrence McElynn

ABSENT

Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Alice Howard

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman 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 Vice-Chairman Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Brown to approve the agenda.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- *Special Called Meeting March 11, 2024 and March 18, 2024*

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Brown to approve the minutes from March 11, 2024 and March 18, 2024.

The Vote: 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.

There were no citizen comments.

7. ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - *Dale Butts, ACA; and Denise Christmas, CFO*

To view the full presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/302768?ts=154>

Ebony Sanders, Assessor

Denise Christmas, Chief Financial Officer

AGENDA ITEMS

8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES. (*FISCAL IMPACT: N/A until Budget Ordinance is approved*) - *Valerie Althoff, Budget Manager*

To view the budget presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/302768?ts=3177>

Budget Presentation presented by:

1. Public Defender's Office
2. Beaufort Memorial Hospital
3. Greater Beaufort-Port Royal CVB
4. Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
5. Technical College of the Lowcountry
6. Coastal Empire

7. South Carolina Nurse Retention Initiative

9. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS. (FISCAL IMPACT: *The South Carolina Opioid Relief Fund (SCORF) award is \$582,606 for one year. No matching funds.*) - Audra Antonacci – Ogden, ACA**

To view the budget presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/302768?ts=10854>

Beaufort County is party to a national opioid lawsuit settlement. As the South Carolina Opioid Relief Funds (SCORF) Board provides opportunities for Beaufort County to apply for funds allocated to Beaufort County. Beaufort County applies for funds to enhance capacity or new initiatives toward opiate abatement strategies. Beaufort County applied in February 2024 and was approved. Allocation of award funds shall be given to opiate issues from prevention to recovery and to equip those impacted with the necessary resources to provide innovative interventions to reduce opiate issues, address unmet needs, and reduce opioid-related overdoses and deaths across Beaufort County.

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Brown to Approve the Recommendation to Council of an Ordinance to Accept and to Appropriate Funds from the South Carolina Opioid Settlement Funds.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

10. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL TO DISBURSE ALLOCATED ARPA-GOOD NEIGHBOR FUNDS TO THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON (FISCAL IMPACT: *This request is for \$500,000 and constitutes their full allocation. Funds remaining in the Good Neighbor Fund after this disbursement are \$566,000. Remaining funds are allocated to Hardeeville and Yemassee*) - Jared Fralix – Assistant County Administrator**

The Good Neighbor Program was an approved use of the ARPA funds as accepted by County Council in early 2022. The Good Neighbor Program was established in an effort by the County to support the municipalities' recovery efforts with supplemental ARAP funds. Requests for these funds must be made by the municipality to ensure that the initiatives/programs funded in the municipalities conform with ARPA guidelines. County staff will be tasked with reviewing requests prior to submission and monitoring uses and expenditures after disbursement, as required by the Federal reporting requirements. The Town of Bluffton has requested \$500,000 in order to support its share of the Stoney Creek Sewer project with BJWSA and the County. The use of ARPA funds for sewer infrastructure is expressly allowable.

To view the budget presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/302768?ts=10988>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, to Approve the Recommendation to Council to Disburse Allocated ARPA- Good Neighbor Funds to The Town of Bluffton.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

11. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A REQUEST TO PURCHASE (1) NEW 36 PASSENGER BUS MODEL: STARCRAFT ALLSTAR XL (FISCAL IMPACT: *\$188,760. The funding source is Parks and Recreation Capital Fund 2662 in line item: 2662-60-0000-54200 with a balance of \$442,000*) - Eric Brown, Parks and Recreation Director**

This new bus will replace asset #22916, a 2004 Chevy Express 3500 (15-passenger) van with 64,298 miles. This van was taken out of service in 2022. However, it was repurposed for spare parts to ensure the continued functionality of other buses that have not yet been replaced. It needs various major repairs that are not cost-effective due to its age and the cost of those repairs. Despite its condition, it has exceeded its recommended replacement schedule. A quote has been provided from Model 1 in the amount of \$188,760. The funding source is Parks and Recreation Capital Fund 2662 in line item 2662-60-0000-54200. The balance in this line item is currently \$442,000. Based on the age, cost, mold, and additional needs of Parks and Recreation, the Beaufort County Fleet Manager recommends approving the purchase of a new 36-passenger bus. The selected replacement bus will serve multiple functions within Parks and Recreation. The aim is to provide an updated and safe transportation option for citizens while also enhancing its appearance to make it visually appealing to the community. By investing in an updated and visually appealing bus, we strive to offer a positive and enjoyable transportation experience for citizens, prioritizing their safety and satisfaction and minimizing downtime.

To view the budget presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/302768?ts=11102>

Motion: It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Glover to Approve the Recommendation to Council of a Request to Purchase (1) New 36 Passenger Bus Model: Starcraft AllStar XL.

The Vote: Motion approved without objection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Glover, to go into Executive Session

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

12. PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-04-70(A)(2) DISCUSSIONS OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (PROJECT BRAVO)

13. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to move forward with the proposed contractual arrangements and the purchase of property known as Project Bravo.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

14. ADJOURNMENT – 6:27 pm.

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

Ratified: May 20, 2024