



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, June 13, 2022
6:00 PM

MINUTES

To view the Council's entire discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting, watch the video stream available on the County's website. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/175439>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Plead of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. FOIA

Chairman Passiment 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 McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve the minutes from April 25, 2022.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. 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/175439>

Senator Tom Davis updated Council on South Carolina Legislature budget appropriations, the 278 Corridor project status, and the County Greenspace Sales Tax Act.

County Administrator Greenway updated the Council on receipt of ARPA funds, bid solicitation for the Hilton Head Island Airport expansion, and the Spanish Moss Trail crossing at Ribaut Road. He also highlighted four Beaufort County employees.

7. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19TH - JUNE 25TH AS NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK

Council Member McElynn presented the Proclamation recognizing June 19th - June 25th as National Mosquito Control Awareness Week to Deputy Director of Mosquito Control Robert Cartner and Assistant County Administrator Phil Foot.

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Please watch the full video stream available on the County's website to view all the Citizen Comments.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/175439?ts=3194>

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League, discussed the County Greenspace Sales Tax Act.

Karen Erwin commented on the school budget ordinance and staffing issues.

Dawn Peebles commented on the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Chris Marsh expressed his support for the leadership of Superintendent Frank Rodriguez.

Heather Reynolds commented on the cost of living in Beaufort County.

Sarah Owen commented on retention issues with Beaufort County Teachers and the low salary rate compared to other counties in South Carolina.

Lauren Borasky urged Council to support the budget ordinance for Beaufort County teachers.

9. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/175439?ts=4013>

Council Member Howard highlighted the Stormwater Utility Board meeting on Wednesday, June 15th, and the Technical College of the Lowcountry Board meeting on Tuesday, June 21st.

Council Member Cunningham provided an update on golf cart access on bike paths, sidewalk repairs, and discussions on the addition of golf cart access in neighborhood building agreements.

10. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to authorize the County Administrator to enter into negotiations with the owners of the property that was discussed

in the executive session to consider purchasing those properties for the purpose of relocating the Daufuskie Island Ferry Services.

Discussion: Council Member Lawson noted the patience of the Buckingham Landing residents and his support for determining a more permanent solution.

Council Member Rodman commented on the benefits of an adequate ferry system and the ongoing discussions about ferry service between Savannah, Hilton Head, and Daufuskie.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with Wheeler & Wheeler Properties terms for the sale of two County-owned properties, 600 Wilmington Street and 1407 King Street, both of which must be used for the purpose of establishing workforce or affordable housing as discussed in executive session.

Discussion: Council Member Glover and Council Member Cunningham supported the motion.

Council Member Flewelling asked questions about the sale of the properties.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the consent agenda.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

12. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND 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

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/175439?ts=4506>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an Ordinance to make appropriations for the County Government, Special Purpose Districts for Beaufort County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling, to amend the budget in the amount of four hundred thousand dollars for the Spanish Moss Trail crossing at Ribaut Road; this will be matched with money from the State plus private donations and the Town of Port Royal for a total of approximately one million dollars for the total crossing.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Discussion: Council Member McElynn discussed his proposal for an amendment to the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office, referencing the pilot program to address DUI cases in Magistrate Court, and suggested a budget reduction by one hundred eighty-seven thousand (187,000) dollars.

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to reduce the Solicitor's budget by 187,000 dollars for the Fiscal Year 2023, with the caveat that the Solicitor and the Sheriff will get together to come up with a new plan of how they wish to address DUI in Beaufort County.

Discussion: Council Member Glover commented on his issue with the timing of the proposed amendment.

Council Member Lawson commented that taking away money could further delay the resolution of DUI cases and that he plans to vote against the motion.

Council Member Rodman asked if the Solicitor could provide his input on the DUI case processing backlog.

Council Member Cunningham commented on the lack of presence of the Solicitor's Office at the budget readings.

The Vote – Voting Yea: Council Member McElynn, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Glover, Council Member Rodman, Council Member Howard, Vice Chairman Sommerville, and Chairman Passiment. Voting Nay: Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Lawson, and Council Member Flewelling. The motion passed 7:3.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Chairman Passiment closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion, as amended, was approved without objection.

13. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND 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 Lawson, to approve the public hearing and second 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.

Discussion: Council Member Flewelling asked about possible budget reconfiguration with the provision of additional state funding.

Council Member Glover commented on the inclusion of the local supplement into teachers' salaries.

Council Member Cunningham asked about current vacancies and contract length.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

Superintendent Rodriguez, Tonya Crosby, and Jill McAden discussed the prioritization of employee compensation and recruitment and addressed Council Members' questions.

Council Member Rodman and Tonya Crosby discussed starting salaries and the millage increase.

Council Member Howard commented on the median income for Beaufort County.

Council Member Cunningham and Tonya Crosby discussed efforts towards \$50,000 starting salaries.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Motion to Extend: It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to extend beyond the 8 o'clock hour.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

14. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A 2022 TRANSPORTATION 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/175439?ts=6908>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the second reading of an Ordinance for a 2022 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum.

Discussion: Chairman Passiment highlighted that the transportation committee’s proposals were about repairing or replacing existing roads and not creating new road systems.

Council Member Howard commented on the provision for sidewalks, bike paths, and greenways in the ordinance and the possible need to change the wording to better communicate what the referendum covers.

Council Member McElynn suggested an eighty-twenty split, with eighty percent of the funding towards roads and twenty percent towards green initiatives.

Vice Chairman Sommerville proposed, and Council discussed, a two-year extension of the sales tax to provide additional funding for greenbelt initiatives.

Council Member Cunningham expressed his concerns over the longevity of the proposed referendum and the potential for funding to be used to build new roads in Bluffton.

Council and County Administrator Greenway discussed the percentage of funding for roads and greenbelt initiatives, the money remaining from the bond referendum for the Rural and Critical Lands Program, the expected funds to be received for the greenbelt initiatives, the penny amount of the referendum, development agreements, and the postponement of the second reading.

Motion to Postpone: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to postpone the second reading of an Ordinance for a 2022 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum to the next County Council meeting on June 27th.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

15. **FIRST 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 Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the first 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.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

16. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE HOSPITALITY TAX FUNDS FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE SANDS BOAT LANDING (FISCAL IMPACT: HOSPITALITY TAX REVENUES NOT TO EXCEED \$177,000)**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/175439?ts=8879>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve a Resolution to allocate Hospitality Tax Funds for the Emergency Repair of the Sands Boat Landing.

Discussion: Council, County Administrator Greenway, and Brittany Ward discussed the process for approval of the allocation of A-Tax funds, budget language allowing for fund allocations to be made through resolutions, and the emergency purpose exception for item 16.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Motion to Reconsider: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Hervochon, to reconsider the second reading of item 12.

Discussion: Council Member Flewelling, County Administrator Greenway, and County Attorney Kurt Taylor discussed the change to the budget to allow A-Tax and H-Tax fund expenditures to be made through a resolution and one reading instead of through an ordinance and three readings.

Council discussed the motion to reconsider item 12.

The Vote –The motion was approved without objection.

Council Member Flewelling proposed an amendment that any language regarding changing the procedure of approving expenditures in Beaufort County contained within the budget ordinance be removed.

Brittany Ward read Section 21 of the budget ordinance that allowed for the appropriation of accommodation and hospitality tax funds through a Council resolution.

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Hervocho, to remove Section 21 from the ordinance.

Chairman Passiment clarified that the other amendments to the budget ordinance still stand.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

The Vote – Item number 12, with the three amendments, was approved without objection.

17. CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Smith discussed community involvement in funding decisions and the need to fund activities for Beaufort County’s youth.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at or around 8:52 PM.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

ATTEST:

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