



Finance Administration and Economic Development Committee

Beaufort County, SC

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

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

3:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's Website to hear the whole discussion or presentation on a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/208805>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lawson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Lawson
Vice-Chairman Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member York Glover (arrived late)

ABSENT

Ex-Officio Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Thomas Reitz
Council Member Alice Howard

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chair Lawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chair Lawson noted that 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 Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to approve the minutes of January 17, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY 2023

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/208805?ts=103>

Hayes Williams provided a breakdown of Beaufort County's January 2023 financial statements, including the fund balance policy, revenues, expenditures, and surplus rollover, and the plan for a budget workshop to allow outside agencies receiving funding to present their financial statements. Mr. Williams also highlighted three bonds that are callable in May and the plan to discuss refunding and defeasement options with David Cheatwood, the County's investment advisor.

Council Member Bartholomew and Mr. Williams discussed miscellaneous revenues.

8. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY ORDINANCE 2022/33 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BEAUFORT COUNTY BUDGET TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO PAY FOR THE PORT ROYAL LIBRARY, TRANSFER FUNDING FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE BATHROOMS AT BRUCE EDGERLY FIELD AND BURTON WELLS, THE USE OF FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE EMS/ FIRE HOUSE IN BLUFFTON, FUNDING OF THE PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK FOR THE USCB CONVOCATION CENTER FACILITY, FUNDING OF A PATHWAY AT THE DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS BUILDING, FUNDING OF REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS OF CIP, ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER, FUNDING OF A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT, SUSPEND THE CURRENT YEAR TRANSFER FROM THE HOSPITALITY TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND, FUNDING OF DIRT ROAD CONTRACT 54, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/208805?ts=600>

Hayes Williams discussed the funding sources and completion timelines for the projects included in the budget amendment. Mr. Williams also highlighted a possible COLA of 3% to address personnel issues.

Committee Chair Lawson and Mr. Bartholomew asked clarifying questions about the funding sources and the use of funds from last year's surplus.

Council Member Tabernik asked about the EMS firehouse location and the use of impact fees for the Port Royal Library.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of an ordinance to amend Beaufort County Ordinance 2022/33 for the fiscal year 2022-23 Beaufort County budget to provide for additional appropriations to pay for the Port Royal Library, transfer funding from the general fund to the capital improvement fund for the bathrooms at Bruce Edgerly Field and Burton Wells, the use of funds to complete the EMS/Fire House in Bluffton, funding of the planning and design work for the USCB Convocation Center Facility, funding of a pathway at the Disability and Special Needs Building, funding of repairs and replacements of CIP, additional funding to

the Island Recreation Center, funding of a cost of living adjustment, suspend the current year transfer from the hospitality tax fund to the general fund, funding of Dirt Road Contract 54, and other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

9. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE STATE 2% ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUND AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/208805?ts=1048>

Hayes Williams discussed the Beaufort County Accommodations Tax Board's funding adjustments to match recipient requests, the total award amount, and the plan to set aside the additional funds allocated in the fund balance to be awarded the following year.

Committee Chair Lawson commented on the funding recommendation and the board appointment process.

Council Member Dawson and Mr. Williams discussed the Accommodations Tax Board's decision not to fund the Okatie River Park Construction.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to recommend approval of an ordinance appropriating funds from the State 2% Accommodations Tax Fund and other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

10. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX FUND AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/208805?ts=1384>

Grants Administrator Ryan Muth commented on the application evaluation procedure and funding recommendations through the local accommodations tax. Mr. Muth also highlighted the reduced number of applications for state and local accommodations tax funds compared to last year.

Council Member Tabernik asked about the reduced level of funding applications.

Council Member Dawson asked about the entities that did not receive funding. Mr. Muth commented on the guidelines for accommodations tax funding and reporting issues.

Council Member Tabernik commented on the requirement for entities to submit a wrap-up of expenditures. Mr. Muth added that the local accommodations tax funding policy is through quarterly report approval and reimbursement.

The Committee, County Administrator Greenway, and Hayes Williams discussed the decision not to fund the Black Chamber of Commerce.

County Administrator Greenway highlighted the new requirement that funding recipients place the Beaufort County logo on event materials to show sponsorship and coordinate marketing plans with DMOs.

Committee Chair Lawson commented on the application process and efforts to ensure transparency.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to recommend approval of an ordinance appropriating funds from the Local Accommodations Tax and Local Hospitality Tax Fund and other matters related thereto

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY FEASTER (EDC CHAIR) AND PAULA BROWN (COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE) TO THE SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE BOARD

Items 11, 12, and 13 were approved as a package.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve voting on items 11, 12, and 13 as a package.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of the appointment of Ashley Feaster (EDC Chair) and Paula Brown (County Council Representative) to the Southern Carolina Alliance Board.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Council Member Bartholomew asked if items 11, 12, and 13 would be sent to the full Council for approval.

12. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DENNIS ROSS TO THE CITY OF BEAUFORT'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AS ONE OF THE TWO COUNTY COUNCIL SEATS AVAILABLE

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of the appointment of Dennis Ross to the City of Beaufort's Metropolitan Planning Commission as one of the two County Council seats available.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

13. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER LARRY MCELYNN TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO FILL THE COUNTY COUNCIL SEAT

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of the appointment of Council Member Larry McElynn to the Economic Development Board to fill the County Council seat.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Recommend approval of the appointment of Dennis Ross to the Planning Commission for a three-year term with the expiration date of February 2026.

Recommend approval of the reappointment of William Graner to the Solid Waste And Recycling Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the reappointment of Carlos Cave to the Parks and Recreation Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the appointment of Mark Rennix to the Parks and Recreation Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the appointment of Shawn Kulpa to the Library Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the reappointments of Eric Billig and Carolyn Banner to the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Board Of Trustees for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the appointment of Clarence Daniels Sr. to the Beaufort County Transportation Committee for a partial term with the expiration date of February 2025.

Recommend approval of the reappointments of Howard Ackerman, James Buckley, Christopher Butler, Anne Esposito, Leslie Adlam Flory, Nicholas Mesenburtg, and Thomas Sheahan to the Airports Board for a two-year term with the expiration date of February 2025.

Recommend approval of the reappointments of Vimal Desi and Richard Farmer to the Accommodations Tax Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Recommend approval of the reappointments of Lucia O'Farrell, Arthur Baer, Walter Mack, Stodd Ewan, and Beekman Webb to the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of February 2027.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to approve the agencies, boards, and commissions appointments and reappointments.

Discussion: Council Member Glover asked about the Parks and Recreation Board reappointments and appointments. County Administrator Greenway replied that staff would provide more information about the Parks and Recreation Board's vacancies and resignations.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70 (A)(2): DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY (333 & 335 Buckwalter Parkway)

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70 (A)(2): DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY (1505 Salem Road)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to enter into an executive session at 3:38 PM.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

16. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Glover, to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents to purchase and to fund the purchase of real property located at 333 and 335 Buckwalter Parkway.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents to purchase and to fund the purchase of a portion of real property located at 1505 Salem Road.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: around 4:15 PM

Ratified: April 17, 2023