



Caucus

Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, January 24, 2022
5:00 PM

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Stu Rodman
Council Member Chris Hervocho
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Lawrence McElynn

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **FOIA**

Chairman Passiment noted that the Public Notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

5. **AGENDA REVIEW**

#12 Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the FY 2022 General Fund Budget (Graves Road). Chairman Passiment commented that the vote on the item will determine if the money will come from the surplus or tag funds.

#14 Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the FY 2022 General Fund Budget to provide for additional appropriation allocating \$83,198.15 to the Beaufort County Public Defender's Office. Chairman Passiment commented that the item was deemed as no longer needed after a meeting with the Public Defender's Office; plan to amend agenda to remove item or take action to say no to this item.

#25 A resolution creating a Citizens Advisory Committee to recommend possible 2022 transportation sales tax project list and/or value/duration limitation. Chairman Passiment commented on the need for discussion of this item.

To see the full discussion, please click the link below.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/153558>

6. **COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSION**

In reference to Agenda Item #14, Council Member Rodman discussed the revenues and the expenses of the Solicitor's Office, his thought that Council may need a similar recap from the Public Defender's Office, and a possible pay scale change.

Council Member McElynn commented on salary adjustments within the middle of a fiscal year, sought clarity on who has the authority to set salary scales, and raised a question about departments that do not receive cost of living adjustments.

County Administrator Eric Greenway stated that Department Heads and those underneath the County Administrator cannot give raises to employees mid-year, as that has to be part of the budget process. Greenway deferred to the County's legal team to discuss who has authority to set salary scales for elected officials and governmental employees that fall outside the responsibility of the County Administrator.

Council Member Cunningham asked about the status of the library at New Riverside.

To see the full discussion, please click the link below.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/153558>

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70(A)(2): RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE ADVICE RELATES TO PENDING CLAIMS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (OPIOID LITIGATION).

SECTION 30-4-70. (A) (2) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MYRTLE PARK).

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70(A)(2): RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (EXTENSION OF TIME TO APPLY FOR SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT RATIO).

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Glover, seconded by Council Member Howard to go into executive session at 5:20 PM

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

Council recessed at 5:20 PM.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment at or around 8:00 PM.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

ATTEST:

Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council
Ratified: