



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

Council Chambers, Administration Building Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls
Complex 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Monday, November 13, 2023
5:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Council's discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Vice-Chairman Lawrence McElynn
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member Thomas Reitz

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Council Member Dawson led the Invocation.

3. FOIA

Chairman Passiment 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 Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the agenda.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2023.

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/280954?ts=193>

Interim County Administrator Robinson commented on the groundbreaking ceremony at the Hilton Head Island Airport and the 2-year completion timeline of Phase 1 of the Terminal Improvements Project. Interim County Administrator Robinson also provided updates on the Daufuskie Island Ferry, including the attainment of an OCRM permit for the Cross Island Boat Landing, the construction and installation of the new docking system scheduled to begin on December 4th, 2023, the start of the ferry service from the Cross Island Boat Landing on January 1st, 2024, and review of applications to the RFQ to determine the new ferry service operator.

Interim County Administrator Robinson highlighted three employees: Brycen Campbell, Senior Accountant with the Finance Department; Ileana Herrick, Senior Administration Specialist with Beaufort County Library; and Sidney Berres, Property Tax Technician I in the Auditor's Office.

Lastly, the Interim County Administrator sought and gained the Council's approval for the Paid Leave Time (PLT) Buyback Program and Friday, December 22nd as a Paid Holiday.

7. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BEAUFORT COUNTY DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=918>

Council Member Tabernik presented a proclamation recognizing April Bryant, a Fifth Grade Teacher at Coosa Elementary, as Beaufort County's District Teacher of the Year.

8. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING COOSA ELEMENTARY NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=1149>

Council Member Tabernik presented a proclamation recognizing Coosa Elementary as a National Blue Ribbon School.

9. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=1441>

Chairman Passiment presented a proclamation recognizing November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

10. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=1577>

1. Skip Hoagland
2. Diederik Advocaat

11. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=1931>

Council Member Reitz commented on the Hilton Head Island Airport's groundbreaking ceremony on November 9th to celebrate the start of Phase 1 of its Terminal Improvements Project.

Council Member Brown commented on the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance's October 25th Board of Directors meeting.

Council Member Tabernik commented on the passing of the Beaufort County School District's \$439 million bond referendum. Council Member Tabernik added that the School District's Citizen-Led Oversight Committee provided their third quarter report outlining the progress and expenditures of the 2019 bond referendum, with 93 projects currently underway and 36 projects completed. Council Member Tabernik also commented on the South Carolina Association of Counties' Subcommittee for Revenue, Finance, and Economic Development's consideration of 40 proposals and provided an overview of relevant proposals.

Council Member Dawson commented on the Lowcountry Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting on October 26th and the new Lowcountry Community Indicators website.

Council Member Howard commented on developments from the Beaufort Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees and Finance meetings the week of October 23rd, including the Beaufort Memorial Hospital's 5% increase in revenue, the high volume of patients at urgent care centers, and the operation room renovations. Council Member Howard also commented on an agreement allowing Naval Hospital nurses to rotate through Beaufort Memorial Hospital to gain experience in the different areas of specialty. Council Member Howard added that she attended the City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal meetings on Reimagine Ribaut Road.

12. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the consent agenda.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

13. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 2023/22) TO PROVIDE ROLLOVER APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,432,768 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (FUND 1040) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BUT NOT COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FISCAL IMPACT: *This will increase the Capital Improvement Fund's budget from \$21,232,455 to \$24,665,223. There will be a balance of \$703,423 remaining in Fund Balance should 100% of all budgeted line items be expended FY'24*)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to amend Beaufort County's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023/22) to provide rollover appropriations in the amount of \$3,432,768 from the Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 1040) for capital improvement projects approved but not completed in fiscal year 2023.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

14. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES ORDINANCE CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-67 (A) (B), APPENDIX A&B (FISCAL IMPACT: Updated Rate Schedule will have a minor fiscal revenue impact.)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance adopting amendments to the Business and Professional Licenses Ordinance Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-67 (A) (B), Appendix A&B.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

15. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE SALARIES FOR VARIOUS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TO AMEND SECTION 2-347 OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF LAWS ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR VARIOUS ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (FISCAL IMPACT: Potential salary amounts owed totals \$45,417.78 to be paid from the payroll contingency account)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=2637>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance ratifying the salaries for various elected officials and to amend Section 2-347 of the Beaufort County Code of Laws establishing the salaries for various elected and appointed officials.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

1. Skip Hoagland

The Chairman closed the public comment.

Discussion: Council Member Bartholomew commented that the raise is not for Council Members but other elected officials within the County whose salaries were incorrect.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

16. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 39 AIRPORT CIRCLE WITH BEAUFORT FLIGHT TRAINING (FISCAL IMPACT: Beaufort Executive Airport will receive monthly income generated through lease revenue – Tenant shall pay \$437.25 (265 sq ft x \$19.80/12) in monthly base lease payments for premises located at the Beaufort Executive Airport terminal. Annual Expected Revenue increase: \$5247.00. These lease rates are in accordance with current Beaufort County lease policies)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the Interim County Administrator to enter into a lease agreement for real property located at 39 Airport Circle with Beaufort Flight Training.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

17. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 39 AIRPORT CIRCLE WITH TIM VERROI (FISCAL IMPACT: Beaufort Executive Airport will receive monthly income generated through lease revenue – Tenant shall pay \$145.20 (88 sq ft x \$19.80/12) in monthly base lease payments for premises

located at the Beaufort Executive Airport terminal. Annual Expected Revenue increase: \$1742.40. These lease rates are in accordance with current Beaufort County lease policies)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the Interim County Administrator to enter into a lease agreement for real property located at 39 Airport Circle with Tim Verroi.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

- 18. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE US 278 CORRIDOR PROJECT JOINT INDEPENDENT REVIEW PERFORMED BY CBB AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO TOWN OF HILTON HEAD REQUESTING THEIR MUNICIPAL CONSENT FOR THE PROJECT (FISCAL IMPACT: N/A)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve a resolution to accept the recommendations from the US 278 Corridor Project Joint Independent Review performed by CBB and authorization for the Interim County Administrator to send correspondence to Town of Hilton Head requesting their municipal consent for the project.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, and Council Member Tabernik. Voting Nay: Council Member Brown and Council Member Reitz. The motion passed by 9:2.

- 19. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE RESULTS OF BOND REFERENDA CONDUCTED IN THE FRIPP ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve a resolution declaring the results of bond referenda conducted in the Fripp Island Public Service District, South Carolina, on November 7, 2023.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

- 20. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/280954?ts=2852>

1. Senator Margie Bright Matthews
2. Skip Hoagland
3. Felice LaMarca

- 21. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE OF LAWS SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 4-9-660)

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) DISCUSSIONS INCIDENT TO CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS (CommunityWorks)

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE ADVICE RELATES TO PENDING LITIGATION

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(1) DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYMENT OF A PERSON REGULATED BY COUNTY COUNCIL

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to enter into an executive session.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

The Council was in an executive session from 5:58 p.m. to 7:33 p.m.

22. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

No matters arose out of the executive session.

23. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 7:33 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



BY: _____

Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:



Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: December 11, 2023