



**County Council of
Beaufort County
Caucus**

Chairman

JOSEPH F. PASSIMENT, JR.

Vice Chairman

D. PAUL SOMMERVILLE

Council Members

MICHAEL E. COVERT

GERALD DAWSON

BRIAN E. FLEWELLING

YORK GLOVER, SR.

CHRIS HERVOCHON

ALICE G. HOWARD

MARK LAWSON

LAWRENCE P. MCELYNN

STU RODMAN

County Administrator

ERIC GREENWAY

Clerk to Council

SARAH W. BROCK

Administration Building

Beaufort County Government

Robert Smalls Complex

100 Ribaut Road

Contact

Post Office Drawer 1228

Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228

(843) 255-2180

www.beaufortcountysc.gov

County Council Caucus Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2020 at 4:00 PM

[This meeting was held virtually in accordance with Beaufort County Resolution 2020-05]

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 4:00PM

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment

Vice Chairman D. Paul Sommerville

Council Member Michael Covert

Council Member Gerald Dawson

Council Member Brian Flewelling

Council Member York Glover

Council Member Stu Rodman

Council Member Chris Hervochon

Council Member Alice Howard

Council Member Mark Lawson

Council Member Lawrence McElynn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Alice Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

FOIA

Chairman Passiment stated notification of this meeting had been published, posted and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chairman Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member McElynn to approve the agenda. Agenda was approved without objection.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jacobs gave updates regarding Mail in Ballots and 2020 Elections, 278, Parris Island base closure, HHI Conv. Center and stated the Public Facilities Committee voted to keep this open.

AGENDA REVIEW

Chairman Passiment stated that there are several items on the Consent agenda and explained the reasoning behind this and how we are using the Consent agenda as a tool to make the meetings a little more efficient and reviewed a few of the committee and liaison reports.

DISCUSSION REGARDING OCTOBER 5TH SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPLETING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S EVALUATION

The Chairman stated Council will hold an in person meeting in October to discuss the administrators evaluation. The date and time will be emailed to all of council along with any documents they may need.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Passiment stated Councils message is not getting out to the public in an accurate, dependable manner.

Council Member McElynn stated that he has been recommended for half a year now that Council has a specialist assigned to the staff of County Council to become a Communications specialist due to the fact that council is left to their own devices and there are a great many things council engages in that need to be communicated to the public. Council Member McElynn then requested that Council move a position from the Executive Branch, at no cost to the County because the FTE will follow the person, and have this take place by the middle of October.

Administrator Jacobs then asked if Council was talking about moving Laura Fanelli over.

Chairman Passiment stated that is correct.

Council Member Covert stated he was surprised and thinks Council needs to define what it is Council wants from this person and further stated bringing another person over is great but council needs to define the parameters.

Chairman Passiment stated there are a variety of platforms out there Council is not utilizing to get the message out and this person could be responsible for this.

Council Member McElynn stated that after a Committee Meeting or a Council Meeting there is an obligation on Councils part to get the message out about what was accomplished at that meeting and it needs to happen immediately after a meeting and the person to take this position would be responsible for that as well as keeping track of items Council needs to discuss.

Council Member Flewelling stated there are 11 Council Members and each of them has an opportunity to get your own message out and advised each member to get a little more active in getting out your perception of the problems that face us and the reason why you made a certain decision.

Council Member Hervochon stated that council needs a Job Description for this position.

Council Member Howard stated there was a job description in the Communications and Transparency Report.

Vice-Chair Sommerville stated Council is getting hammered in local publications and Council needs this person to help create a level playing field.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Vice Chairman Sommerville to approve Laura Fanelli.

Council Member Flewelling stated Caucus was not the place to take a motion and stated this needed to be taken up at Council.

Motion removed.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PLAN TO OPEN BEAUFORT COUNTY BUILDINGS

Administrator Jacobs stated the Library Board determines the status of their buildings and operations, Chief Magistrate determines the status of operations with regards to Magistrate Court, the Clerk of Court determines the status of operations with regards to the Courthouse with guidance from the Chief Justice, as for the Admin Building many of those offices are taking appointments, park facilities buildings are closed but outdoor team sports are active, and further stated her primary concern is the health of her employees and the public.

Council Member Rodman stated he thinks Council could find a large enough venue to get back to having meetings in person again and encouraged Council to start meeting face to face.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SECOND READINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairman Passiment stated the public weighs in before ordinances are final as public hearings are a requirement. In the past public hearings were always done at second reading but due to there being a 15 day notice requirement before you can have a public hearing certain items had to be moved to a third reading and public hearing to be compliant.

COUNTY COUNCIL VALUES

Chairman Passiment stated twelve values of County Council that he distributed and asked each Council Member to look at them and reflect on them when they are making decisions

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Dawson to go into executive session for the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim. Motion was approved without objection.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:54PM