



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.

Monday, April 17, 2023

3:00 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/224076>

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Lawson
Vice-Chairman Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Ex-Officio Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Gerald Dawson (arrived late)
Council Member York Glover (arrived late)

ABSENT

Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Thomas Reitz
Council Member Paula Brown

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Lawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chairman 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 Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the agenda.

Discussion: Council wished Council Member McElynn a happy birthday.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

No citizen comments.

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

Council Member Howard announced an April 25th workshop with Ebony Sanders to discuss the 2023 property reassessment. While the workshop targets Council Member Howard's and Council Member Glover's districts, it is open for anyone to attend.

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224076?ts=188>

CFO Williams provided an overview of the General Fund revenues and expenditure through March 2023, a projection of departments' surpluses and deficits, the Capital Project Fund, the Debt Service Fund, the Rural and Critical Lands Program's fund balance, and 7 million dollars in land purchases.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and CFO Williams discussed the difference between the surplus amounts for the Sheriff's Office and the Detention Center.

Council Member Howard and CFO Williams discussed the risk management surplus.

Council Member Bartholomew, Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, and CFO Williams discussed variances in the financial statements.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and CFO Williams discussed personnel expenses.

Committee Chairman Lawson and CFO Williams discussed millage-based compensation.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST PRESENTATIONS:

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224076?ts=1240>

Representing the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation, Mr. John O'Toole briefed the Committee on the funding provided in the last five years, the FY 2024 funding request, project development, and near-term project plans, including Commerce Park.

Committee Chairman Lawson and Mr. O'Toole discussed the \$10 million product development request.

Representing the Military Enhancement Committee of Beaufort County, Neil Pugliese provided an overview of MEC's mission, economic impact, and national defense benefits. Ian Scott briefed the Committee on a task force focused on the possible redevelopment of the Naval Hospital and the next steps for the preliminary site plans and funding.

Council Member Bartholomew and Mr. Scott discussed public input on the site plan proposal and the plans for mixed-use redevelopment.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and Mr. Scott discussed grant funding and the MEC's establishment as a public-private partnership.

Council Member Glover and Mr. Pugliese discussed sea level rise and Parris Island.

County Administrator Greenway and Mr. Scott discussed the expansion of appointments to the MEC, including two from the Greater Island Council.

Representing the Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Ariana Pernice briefed the Committee on the organization's mission, governance, marketing strategy for media platforms, tourism goals, and FY 2024 budget breakdown.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, Ms. Pernice, and CFO Hayes discussed the funding provided to the Chamber by the local and state accommodations taxes.

Representing Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Russell Baxley briefed the Committee on the number of patients served and plans to expand access to care, programs offered through the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, the Path Program's support for employee well-being, housing assistance, and professional development, and the \$2,750,000 funding request.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and Mr. Baxley discussed funding for mental health facilities, the crisis stabilization unit, and increased expenses.

Council Member Howard and Mr. Baxley discussed the home ownership time commitment and the salary of the 50 contract nurses.

Council Member Glover asked whether road conditions impact the provision of services.

Council Member Passiment and Mr. Baxley discussed the expansion of care into Bluffton.

Committee Chairman Lawson and Mr. Baxley discussed capital improvements, operational expenses, and Beaufort Memorial Hospital's current debt-free status.

9. PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224076?ts=6963>

CFO Williams discussed the budget review process, reassessments to calculate millage rates, the General Fund preliminary recommended budget, and an April 27th seminar by the SC Department of Revenue to discuss millage setting and rollback.

10. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF THE OUTSTANDING BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2013A, 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/224076?ts=7317>

CFO Williams highlighted three callable bonds, including a 2013 bond that can be redeemed because of the sufficient fund balance.

Jeremy Cook discussed the opportunity to pay off or refinance the callable bonds and the recommendation to pay off the 2013A bonds.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, seconded by Council Member Glover, to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing the redemption of the outstanding Beaufort County, South Carolina General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013A, and other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE AN AMBULANCE FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE BUDGET SURPLUS (\$328,530.00)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224076?ts=7874>

Assistant County Administrator Robinson briefed the Committee on a potential ambulance purchase.

Council Member Glover and ACA Robinson discussed funding and removing this item from the 2024 CIP.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Howard, to recommend approval of a resolution to purchase an ambulance from Beaufort County Emergency Medical Service Budget Surplus.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

12. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LARRY MCELYNN, GERALD DAWSON, YORK GLOVER, ALICE HOWARD, AND ANNA MARIA TABERNIK TO THE LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT AS THE COUNTY COUNCIL APPOINTEES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, to recommend approval of the appointment of Larry McElynn, Gerald Dawson, York Glover, Alice Howard, and Anna Maria Tabernik to the Lowcountry Council of Government as the County Council appointees.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

13. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF WARREN PARKER AND ED SAXON TO THE MILITARY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE AS BEAUFORT COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVES FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM WITH THE EXPIRATION DATE OF JULY 2026

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of the reappointments of Warren Parker and Ed Saxon to the Military Enhancement Committee as Beaufort County's representatives for a three-year term with the expiration date of July 2026.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, seconded by Committee Vice-Char Tabernik, to recommend approval of the appointment of Charles Perry to the Beaufort County Transportation Committee for a four-year term with the expiration date of April 2027, the appointment of Jonathan Henney to the Planning Commission for a three-year term with the expiration date of April 2026, the appointment of Lea Cifranick-McFadden to the Disabilities and Special Needs Boards for a four-year term with the expiration date of April 2027, and the appointment of David Nelems to the Airports Board for a two-year term with the expiration date of April 2025.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 5:16 PM

Ratified: June 19, 2023