



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, March 25, 2024
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/300692>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance and Council Member Howard gave the invocation.

3. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, POSTED, AND DISTRIBUTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Chairman Passiment stated that public notice of this meeting had been published, posted and distributed in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Brown to approve the minutes from February 26, 2024.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

6. INVESTIGATION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.

Boyd Nicholson, Jr., a shareholder and managing partner at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, presented the firms findings.

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/300692>

7. ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS AS RESULT OF INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF HAYNSWORTH SINKER BOYD, P.A.

Interim Administrator, John Robinson, presented administrations response to the findings.

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8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

To hear the administrators report please watch the video below.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/300692>

9. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD - 15 MINUTES TOTAL

Citizen comment was taken.

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10. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Members Howard, Reitz, Tabernik and Chairman Passiment all gave reports.

11. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Lawson to approve the following consent agenda items: third reading of an ordinance authorizing the interim county administrator to execute the necessary documents to convey a portion of property owned by Beaufort County located on Beach City Road, Hilton Head Island; and board and commission appointments and reappointments.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

12. MOTION TO CONSIDER AMENDING A PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION (RESOLUTION 2024/04) THAT AUTHORIZED THE PROVISION OF FUNDS TO THE LOWCOUNTRY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (LATS) FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY'S PORTION OF LOCAL MATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTATION STUDIES: (1) THE NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSIT STUDY, (2) THE SC 315/46 AND BLUFFTON PARKWAY EXTENSION STUDY, AND (3) THE BLUFFTON PARKWAY FROM SC 170 TO US 278 AT THE

BLUFFTON PARKWAY FLYOVER STUDY; AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES

- 13. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY'S BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 (ORDINANCE NO. 2023/22) TO APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER \$250,000 FROM FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (FUND 2546) TO COVER UNBUDGETED COSTS FOR THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS; TO APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER \$3,600,000 FROM FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 333 AND 335 BUCKWALTER PARKWAY PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 2023/14; TO INCLUDE THREE SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS' BUDGETS (FUNDS 2230, 2252, AND 2255) IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$402,918 WHICH WERE CONVERTED TO THE GENERAL FUND DURING THE CHART OF ACCOUNTS CONVERSION PROCESS. TOTAL AMENDMENT OF BUDGET ORDINANCE 2023/22 IS \$4,252,918.**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, Seconded by Vice-Chairman McElynn to approve public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to amend Beaufort County's budget ordinance for fiscal year 2024 (ordinance no. 2023/22) to appropriate and transfer \$250,000 from fund balance of the general fund to the special revenue fund (fund 2546) to cover unbudgeted costs for the Daufuskie Island Ferry operations; to appropriate and transfer \$3,600,000 from fund balance of the general fund for the purchase of real property located at 333 and 335 Buckwalter Parkway pursuant to ordinance 2023/14; to include three special revenue funds' budgets (funds 2230, 2252, and 2255) in an aggregate amount of \$402,918 which were converted to the general fund during the chart of accounts conversion process. Total amendment of budget ordinance 2023/22 is \$4,252,918.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Chairman Passiment closed the public comment.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

- 14. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 TAXATION, ARTICLE V HOSPITALITY TAX OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to amend chapter 66 Taxation, Article V Hospitality Tax of the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Chairman Passiment closed the public comment.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

- 15. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 TAXATION, ARTICLE II ACCOMMODATIONS TAX BOARD, DIVISION 1. GENERALLY AND DIVISION 2. ACCOMMODATIONS (3%) TAX**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, Seconded by Council Member Brown to approve public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to amend chapter 66 Taxation, Article II Accommodations Tax Board Division 1. Generally, and Division 2. Accommodations (3%) Tax.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Chairman Passiment closed the public comment.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Brown, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Tabernik, Council Member Cunningham. Voting Nay: Council Member Reitz. The motion passed 9:1.

16. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE STATE A-TAX FUNDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE A-TAX COMMITTEE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Glover to approve second reading of an ordinance appropriating funds from the State A-Tax Funds as recommended by the State A-Tax Committee in compliance with the requirements of the SC Code of Laws.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Brown, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Tabernik, Council Member Cunningham. Voting Nay: Council Member Reitz. The motion passed 9:1.

17. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCUREMENT OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON SEVERAL PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN JASPER COUNTY AND KNOWN, COLLECTIVELY, AS GREGORIE NECK (PIN# 087-00-09-022, 087-00-09-023, 087-00-09-025, 087-00-09-031)

Motion It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Bartholomew to approve a resolution authorizing the interim county administrator to execute the documents necessary and to provide funds to contribute to the procurement of a conservation easement on several parcels of real property located in Jasper County and known, collectively, as Gregorie Neck.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

18. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) WITH BEAUFORT JASPER WATER SEWER AUTHORITY, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION OF THE LOBECO/MORGAN ROAD WATERLINE PROJECT IGA WITH BJWSA FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER LINE TO SERVE THE LOBECO COMMUNITY. WATER LINE TO BE INSTALLED ON MORGAN ROAD BETWEEN TRASK PARKWAY AND JOHN MEEK WAY

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve a resolution authorizing the interim county administrator to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority, for the construction/installation of the Lobeco/Morgan road waterline project iga with BJWSA for design and construction of a water line to serve the Lobeco community. Water line to be installed on Morgan Road between Trask Parkway and John Meek Way.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

19. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 FOR THE REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMERCIAL DOCK AND UPGRADING OF EXISTING PROCESSING AND GRADING BUILDINGS AT GAY FISH COMPANY.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Bartholomew to approve a resolution authorizing the interim county administrator to accept a grant from the South Carolina

Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$500,000 for the repair and construction of a commercial dock and upgrading of existing processing and grading buildings at Gay Fish Company.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

20. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEE SUBSIDY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,765 REQUESTED BY LOWCOUNTRY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Motion It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve a resolution authorizing the interim county administrator to approve an affordable housing fee subsidy in the amount of \$11,765 requested by Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity for the construction of three affordable residential units in northern Beaufort County.

The Vote - Motion was approved without objection.

21. RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS MIKE, SR. TO THE BEAUFORT JASPER SEWER WATER AUTHORITY BOARD

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Tabernik to recommend the appointment of Thomas Mike, Sr., to the BJWSA Board.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Brown, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Tabernik, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Reitz. Voting Nay: Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard. The motion passed 8:2.

22. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Citizen comment was taken.

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23. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting Adjourned at 6:42PM

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



BY: _____

Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:



Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: April 22, 2024