



**County Council of
Beaufort County
Executive Committee
Meeting**

Chairman
PAUL SOMMERVILLE

Committee Members
ALICE HOWARD
LAWRENCE P. MCELYNN
CHRIS HERVOCHON
BRIAN FLEWELLING
MICHAEL COVERT

County Administrator
ASHLEY M. JACOBS

Clerk to Council
SARAH W. BROCK

Administration Building
Beaufort County Government
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Executive Committee Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Committee Chairman Sommerville
Council Member Passiment
Council Member Hervochon
Council Member Covert
Council Member Dawson
Council Member Rodman
Council Member Glover
Council Member Howard
Council Member McElynn

ABSENT

Council Member Lawson

FOIA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Sommerville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member McElynn to approve the agenda. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 27, 2020

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Howard to approve the minutes from August 27, 2020. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0

PRESENTATION FROM SUPERINTENDENT FRANK RODRIGUEZ

Council Member McElynn introduced Superintendent Frank Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez stated at they began the year in a virtual format and what is important is regardless of what day face to face instructions start, that there are 47% of families that chose a virtual format for the year.

Council Member McElynn mentioned that there a lot of community partners that have called to help families that need assistance with additional supervision while parents work.

Council Member Hervochon asked Dr. Rodriguez if the school district has a reserve fund to utilize for programs like this.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that there are partnering with organizations like this but are not using their reserve funds for funding.

Council Member Glover brought forth his concern with the rural community not being able to use virtual learning because they do not have access to the internet.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that there are a couple of opportunities out there through the legislative body and one is securing a device that is similar to a hotspot and that the school district has gone through the process of securing those devices and have 2,400 on hand. An application process with income criteria, secures this device and have had 200 applicants that have been provided with a device. Secondly, internet providers may submit a proposal to the state to provide broadband access to an area and in turn, recoup the money they spent on it from the state. Hargary has submitted four proposals for the Beaufort area.

Council Member Glover asked if there were any student loss in the rural community because they cannot receive internet service.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that they haven't lost any students that have tried to engage. The transportation team has been enlisted with placing phone calls to the students who are not actively participating or failing to engage to make sure they participate.

Council Member McElynn mentioned that the County is making every effort they can to provide access to building for elementary and middle school students so that they may have internet access and adult supervision.

Council Member Rodman stated that he thinks that the school district is in a position to let the County know what the needs are to help the students and believes that the need is greater than what the Council is asking for.

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER LARRY MCELYNN

Council Member McElynn relayed the following statement of information.

The community services department will soon be considering grant requests from community groups to fund certain aspects of their ongoing activities. Several community groups have organized to engage in distance learning as the new school year starts and as the school district is operating with restrictions in place due to COVID he anticipates 3-4 groups will seek assistance with distance learning needing \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 in each case. Grants are also being requested by those organizations from a variety of different funding sources. He is not sure of the number of groups that will eventually submit applications to the Community Services Department but believes that they have the chance to support the board of education in their efforts to support and encourage meaningful distance learning and allow adequate physical distance learning in the public school buildings. The County should be prepared to provide as much community assistance and support as needed. Over 40 organizations have requested for \$750,000.00 in community grants applications and the amount of money available is currently \$398,000.00. Only two applications are from organizations that are able to provide assistance with distance learning and he would like to see those applications pulled from the pool of applicants for community service grant funding and fund them with money from the general reserve fund. Even though there are only two applicants at this time when people become aware that the County is interested in forming a partnership with the board of education we may have more people asking for funds. These applicants need to be researched if any other funding has been applied for and if so only make up for the shortfall from any other grants being awarded.

Council Member McElynn would like to move this in the form of a motion.

Motion: It was moved my Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Passiment to forward this matter to finance committee for the consideration of taking up this matter up as a potential grant opportunity with a commitment of up to \$200,000.00 from the general reserve fund. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continuation from Executive Committee Meeting on August 27th)

Committee Assignments- Executive Committee Chair Paul Sommerville

Discussion: Committee Chairman Sommerville stated that a lot of material was provided by the Chairman and they have been assigned to different committees at the last meeting. A new list was created today for each of the standing committees and for the Committee Chairs to review the preliminary list of assignments.

New list:

- Affordable Housing- Natural Resources
- Enterprise Fund for Recycling- Public Facilities
- Decal System- Public Facilities
- Tourism in out County, part of economic development plan and comprehensive plan- Executive Committee
- Economic Development Outlook- Executive Committee
- 2022 Penny Sales Tax- Executive Committee
- Comprehensive Plan, CIP, and Priority Investment Act- Executive Committee
- Jenkins Island- Public Facilities
- Route 170 Study and Plan- Public Facilities
- Future referendum for traffic projects and infrastructure for roads, sewer, and utilities- Public Facilities
- Daufuskie Island Ferry- Public Facilities
- Infrastructure for shovel ready projects for federal stimulus bill- Public Facilities
- 2021 Retreat and key items to discuss- Executive Committee
- Budget- Finance Committee
- Update on projects under the last referendum- Public Facilities (items can be disseminated to appropriate committee)
- Federal Court House lease- Public Facilities (Priority Item, lease extension ends September 30th)
- 2020 Census- Community Services
- External Audit- Finance Committee
- Impact Fee Study- Natural Resources
- Technology Infrastructure- Public Facilities
- Personnel and Administration- Finance Committee
- Passive Parks- Natural Resources
- Development Agreements- Natural Resources
- Local Option Sales Tax Referendum 21'- Executive Committee
- Municipalities and Mayors meeting- Executive
- Water and sewer hook ups to replace failing system- Public Facilities
- Employee Compensation- Finance Committee
- Status of Investigation of Stolen Equipment- Executive Committee
- Status of Lawyers- Public Defender and Solicitors- Update from Administrator to Executive Committee
- DNA Lab Improvement Update- Administration to update Executive Committee
- PIO for Council- Executive Committee
- Budget reports- Monthly or Quarterly- Finance Committee
- Website Development- Chairman and Clerk to Council is working on a section of the website to update the public by providing a synopsis of what happened at meetings
- Annual training for Council Members/Orientation for new Council Members- Executive Committee

Council Member Glover stated that training for Council Members is needed to handle personnel matters. If there may be a personnel committee or would the Executive Committee handle that and would like to review the laws to better handle personnel matters.

Council Member Rodman suggested that the referendum needed to be reworded because it has been difficult to pass a referendum with non-road items included.

Council Member Howard stated that the comp plan is underway and believes the federal courthouse to be two separate issues, future use of the courthouse and the amount being paid for the parking lot.

CAUCUS MEETING TOPICS

- County Administrator's evaluation and will be finished with an Executive Session
- Retiree Litigation
- Baypoint Project
- Island West Rezoning
- Update on Comprehensive Plan
- List from legal on the various legal areas, the outside attorney's that handle certain areas.
- CIP
- 2% A-Tax and H-Tax Ordinance
- Reserve Fund Ordinance
- Update on Lawsuits
- Mayor's Meeting, discussing matters of common interest
- Salary Ordinance
- Rules of Decorum or Rules of Ethics
- County Council Issues

Topics suggested to be brought forward:

- Council Member Rodman suggest that the CIP, Comp-Plan which includes a priority investment act and the 2022 transportation sales tax all overlap and needs to do sooner than later and bundle the together.
- Council Member Glover would like the boat ramps and upkeep on the ramps updated through public facilities committee

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Citizen Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Ratified by Committee: October 12, 2020