



Special Called Meeting of the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee Beaufort County, SC

This meeting will be held both in person at the County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, and virtually through Zoom.

Wednesday, May 01, 2024
2:00 PM

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

MARK LAWSON, CHAIRMAN
DAVID P. BARTHOLOMEW
YORK GLOVER

ANNA MARIA TABERNIK, VICE-CHAIR
GERALD DAWSON
JOSEPH F. PASSIMENT, EX-OFFICIO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik called the meeting to order at 2:12 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik noted that the 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 Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Dawson to approve the agenda.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS - 15 MINUTES TOTAL

Anyone who wishes to speak during the Citizen Comment portion of the meeting will limit their comments and speak no longer than three (3) minutes. Speakers will address Council in a respectful manner appropriate to the decorum of the meeting, refraining from the use of profane, abusive, or obscene language. In accordance with Beaufort County's Rules and Procedures, giving of a speaker's time to another is not allowed.

No citizen comments.

AGENDA ITEMS

6. BEAUFORT COUNTY COMPENSATION & CLASSIFICATION STUDY (*FISCAL IMPACT: NA until project is complete and Budget Ordinance is approved*) - Katherine Mead, HR Director

Per a Beaufort County Ordinance, the Human Resources Department has contracted with an external consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of the current pay structure. It will provide recommendations for an updated plan to ensure competitiveness within the market. This is an update on the ongoing Compensation and Classification Study the Management Advisory Group (MAG) provided.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=173>

7. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMIT FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY TO THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARTHUR E. BROWN REGIONAL WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER. (*FISCAL IMPACT: \$7.5 Million over a 3 year period*) - Mary Lee Carns, Vice President for Advancement and Workforce Development

The Technical College of the Lowcountry is requesting \$6,000,000 and will include this amount in a bond issuance in the fall of 2024. Direct TCL's surplus revenue over its current year's budgeted revenue will be used for the annual bond payment beginning in the fall of 2025. There will be no fiscal impact on the taxpayers. This is for the Construction of a Regional Workforce Training Center.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Howard.

Motion to amend: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Howard to Amend # 2 in the Resolution and Replace Calendar Year with Fiscal Year.

The Vote: Motion approved without objection.

#2 currently reads: It is the intent that Beaufort County Council will meet its \$7,500,000 financial commitment by the end of calendar year 2027.

#2 as amended reads: It is the intent that Beaufort County Council will meet its \$7,500,000 financial commitment by the end of fiscal year 2027

Main Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Council Member Howard to Approve the Recommendation to Council of a Resolution to Commit Funds to be Provided from Beaufort County to the Technical College of the Lowcountry for the Construction of the Arthur E. Brown Regional Workforce Training Center as amended.

The Vote: Motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=1006>

8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FROM FIRE DISTRICTS AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT (*FISCAL IMPACT: NA until Budget Ordinance is approved*)

1. Bluffton Township Fire District
2. Burton Fire District
3. Daufuskie Island Fire District
4. Lady's Island - St. Helena Fire District
5. Sheldon Township Fire District
6. University of South Carolina - Beaufort

7. Solicitor's Office- presentation was held after item # 9.
<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=5707>

To view the full presentations: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=1432>

9. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRODUCT FUNDING REQUEST (*FISCAL IMPACT: Based on current value of a mil this funding is estimated to be approximately \$8.1M for a three year period. Should the County have the ability to transfer this mil from another fund, temporarily and for a period up to three years, the funding of this request would not increase taxes but will reappropriate existing funds. Additional funding is expected from the SC Department of Commerce to support this initiative*) - John O'Toole, Executive Director, Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation**

The Beaufort County Development Corp (BCEDC) is charged with developing a more diverse economy for Beaufort County, developing a tax base and quality jobs for residents. BCEDC will continue to pursue projects that are in sync with the scale and environmental expectations of the community. With the ongoing success at the Beaufort Commerce Park must look for sites that would be suitable in the future. BCEDC is asking the council to increase the funding for the site, and jobs account by one mil above the current .3 mills for 3 or 4 years to allow for the purchase and build-out of the infrastructure of development sites. The funds would reside with the county and will require council approval for specific acquisitions and infrastructure build-out as the opportunities arise. Proceeds realized from the sales will replenish this fund.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Howard, to Approve the Economic Development Funding Request as a Resolution Increasing 1 mil. Every Year over a 5-Year Period.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=1431>

10. **FY 2025 BONDING PRESENTATION- David Cheatwood, First Tryon Advisors**

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=8291>

11. **REVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE BUDGETS FOR FY 25 - Valerie Althoff, Budget Manager and Denise Christmas, CFO**

To view the full presentation: <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/304025?ts=9480>

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 4:55 pm.

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<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Ratified: May 20, 2024