



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, March 20, 2023

2:00 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/222282>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Lawson
Vice-Chairman Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Ex-Officio Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Lawrence McElynn

ABSENT

Council Member York Glover
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Thomas Reitz

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 Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the minutes of January 17, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

7. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT FROM FSI OFFICE, A STATE CONTRACT VENDOR, FOR PROBATE COURT OFFICES IN BEAUFORT AND HILTON HEAD (FISCAL IMPACT: \$234,459.47 FUNDING IS VIA THE CIP FUND)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/222282?ts=111>

Capital Projects Director Larson commented on the remodeling and renovation needs for probate court offices at the main courthouse and the Hilton Head office.

Committee Chairman Lawson and Director Larson discussed the replacement of existing furniture and the expected lifespan of the furniture to be purchased.

Council Member Tabernik and Director Larson discussed what happens to the existing furniture and the state contract pricing.

Council Member Bartholomew and Director Larson discussed future renovations and office furniture upgrades.

Council Member McElynn and Director Larson discussed the offices covered by the agenda item.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member McElynn, to recommend approval to proceed with the purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment from FSI Office, a state contract vendor, for probate court offices in Beaufort and Hilton Head.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

8. APPROVAL TO AWARD MUSCO THE CONTRACT FOR FIELD LIGHTING AT CORSEN TATE PARK ON LADY'S ISLAND (FISCAL IMPACT: MUSCO PROVIDED A COST FOR \$799,325.00. FUNDS COME FROM PARKS IMPACT FEES NORTH OF THE BROAD)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/222282?ts=391>

Capital Projects Director Larson highlighted that Musco is a specific brand of lights controlled by a computer software system and used in other parks.

Council Member Bartholomew and Director Larson discussed the cost of the lighting project.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Batholomew, to recommend approval to award Musco the contract for field lighting at Corsen Tate Park on Lady's Island.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

9. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR THE COMBINED PROJECTS OF PROJECT PACKET AND PROJECT LAWN

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/222282?ts=582>

Mr. John O'Toole briefed the Committee on the projects and the flow-through grants to be provided to the company involved in both projects, Watterson Brands.

Council Member Tabernik and Mr. O'Toole discussed the location of the projects, job creation, and how the funds would be used.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Brown, to recommend approval of a resolution to accept a grant from the SC Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$50,000 for the combined projects of Project Packet and Project Lawn.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

10. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSHUA GIBSON TO THE CITY OF BEAUFORT'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE COUNCIL APPOINTEE

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Glover to recommend approval of the appointment of Joshua Gibson to the City of Beaufort's Metropolitan Planning Commission as the council appointee.

Discussion: Council Member Howard commented that the County has two representatives to the City of Beaufort's Planning Commission and that this appointment is for one of those two seats.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF JONNE HAYES SR AND ROBERT SCHOCH TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM WITH THE EXPIRATION DATE OF MARCH 2027

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the agencies, boards, and commissions appointments and reappointments.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

12. FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FUNDING REQUEST PRESENTATIONS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/222282?ts=899>

Dr. Faith Polkey presented Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services' historical background, mission, organizational structure, services provided, hiring plans, and funding request.

Council Member Howard and Dr. Polkey discussed services provided to migrants and seasonal agricultural workers, including a night clinic for dental and medical care.

Council Member Passiment and Dr. Polkey discussed funding from Jasper and Hampton counties.

Council Member Glover and Dr. Polkey discussed projects that could benefit from additional funding, including the planned expansion at the Okatie site.

Robb Wells presented Beaufort Port Royal Convention & Visitors Bureau's funding streams, budget, marketing campaign, and funding request.

Council Member Glover and Mr. Wells discussed short-term rentals in the Land's End area.

Council Member Bartholomew and Mr. Wells discussed advertisement coordination with other A-tax grant recipients.

Martin Goodman provided a presentation on the Beaufort Area Small Business Development Center's one-on-one business consulting for existing and start-up businesses, work with start-ups, support for acquisitions, efforts to support pandemic recovery, and the most recent annual report.

Council Member Glover thanked Mr. Goodman for the assistance his organization provides.

Denise Parsick presented Beaufort Conservation District's mission, organizational structure, partnership with local entities, education outreach programs, and use of County funds.

Council Member Bartholomew and Ms. Parsick discussed rent for the Crystal Lake Park building.

Council Member Glover commented on the conservation education program.

Council Member Howard commented on the partnership with the Rural and Critical Lands Program and the Eco Camp.

Frank Soule presented the Island Recreation Center's recreation programs, fitness programs, senior center, scholarship program, and funding request to support pool operations.

Committee Chair Lawson and Mr. Soule discussed the program offerings to residents of Bluffton.

Council Member Tabernik and Mr. Soule discussed the fees to use the programs and facilities.

Council Member Dawson and Mr. Soule discussed funding sources.

Mary Lou Franzoni presented on the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority's service area, the Palmetto Breeze Trolley, the Bluffton Breeze bus system, emergency operations support, grants for new buses, and the funding request.

Council Member Tabernik and Ms. Franzoni discussed evacuations in Sun City.

Council Member Glover commented on the need for services in the northern part of the county.

Richard Gough and Mary Lee Carns provided a presentation on the Technical College of the Lowcountry, including the number and demographics of students, the Culinary Institute of the South, the cyber security associate degree and certificate programs, and the budget and funding request.

Larry Holman and Kevin Holman presented on the Black Chamber of Commerce's mission, provision of microloans, home renovation assistance for seniors and those with fixed income, counseling for first-time homebuyers, and the arts program.

Council Member Bartholomew asked about the funding request.

Chancellor Al M. Panu provided a presentation on the University of South Carolina, Beaufort's campuses and students, degree programs, historic milestones, budget, and funding needs to move forward with the construction of the convocation center.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, seconded by Council Member Brown, to defer the presentations by the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation, the Beaufort Memorial Hospital, the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and the Military Enhancement Committee of Beaufort County until the April meeting.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70 (A) (1) DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONS TO A PUBLIC BODY (GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member McElynn, to enter into an executive session at 4:21 PM.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Howard, to forward to the Council for its consideration and approval of the recommendations of the Green Space Task Force as presented in the executive session.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at or around 4:50 PM.

Ratified: May 8, 2023