



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, September 11, 2023
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/271144>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Council Member York Glover

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

3. FOIA

Chairman Passiment 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

Chairman Passiment commented that item number one on the consent agenda currently states that the \$350,000 the County would use the general fund to pay for the investigations, reviews, and audits, but that it needs to be changes to reflect that the payment will come from the fund balance instead of the general fund.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Vice-Chairman McElynn, to amend item number one on the consent agenda to change the words "General Fund" to "fund balance."

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Main Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the agenda as amended.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=267>

Interim County Administrator Robinson recognized Finance Specialist Vicki Prescott with Disabilities and Special Needs, and Denise Christmas as the new interim Deputy County Administrator. Mr. Robinson also highlighted three new employees, including the Executive Director of the Alcohol and Drug Department Rebecca Burgess, Public Information Officer Hannah Nichols, and Passive Parks Naturalist Destiney Rains.

7. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION WEEK

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=795>

Council Member Bartholomew presented a proclamation recognizing the week of September 17th to 23rd as Constitution Week, which was received by the Thomas Heyward Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

8. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=959>

Council Member Bartholomew presented a proclamation recognizing the week of September 16th to 23rd as National Estuaries Week, which was received by a representative from Pritchards Island Living Laboratory.

9. PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=1078>

Vice-Chairman McElynn presented a proclamation recognizing September as National Recovery Month.

10. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=1371>

1. Grant McClure
2. Hope Cunningham

3. Michael Murphy

11. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=1768>

Council Member Tabernik commented on the Academy for Career Excellence, which requires twelve million dollars in capital, and Jasper County's concerns about paying for one-third of the Academy's costs while only having eighteen percent of the students. Council Member Tabernik also highlighted the scoring mechanism in the Superintendent's contract and the School Board's referendum meetings about the fund request to be put on the November ballot.

Council Member Cunningham highlighted items on the consent agenda originating from the Public Facilities and Safety Committee, including the purchase of equipment and upgrades for the Hilton Head Island Airport.

12. APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT RENEWAL/EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION WITH HAIG POINT CLUB AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FERRY COMPANY ("HAIG POINT") (FISCAL IMPACT: County Council appropriated \$375,000 to cover the Ferry Service contract for all of FY24 as part of the budget)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve a contract renewal/extension and modification with Haig Point Club and Community Association Ferry Company ("Haig Point").

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Brown, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, and Council Member Reitz. Voting Nay: Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Dawson, and Council Member Tabernik. The motion passed by 6:4.

13. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 38, ARTICLE VII – GREEN SPACE PROGRAM, TO ESTABLISH SECTION 38-200 - GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GSAC) PROGRAM CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=2045>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Vice-Chairman McElynn, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance amending Beaufort County Code of Ordinances Chapter 38, Article VII - Green Space Program, to establish Section 38-200 - Green Space Advisory Committee (GSAC) Program Criteria and Application Process.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League

The Chairman closed the public comment.

Discussion: Council Member Howard thanked County staff, including the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, for their input on the application procedure and the program.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

15. **PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE FEE SIMPLE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITH TMS NUMBER R112-032-000-0637-0000, R112-032-000-0008-0000, AND R112-032-000-0064-0000 ALSO KNOWN AS CHERRY HILL OAK (FISCAL IMPACT: Up to \$1,550,000 plus closing costs - Rural and Critical Program; Account # 4500)**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=2168>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to approve the public hearing and a resolution authorizing the Interim County Administrator to execute the necessary documents and provide funding for the fee simple purchase of real property with TMS Number R112-032-000-0637-0000, R112-032-000-0008-0000, and R112-032-000-0064-0000 also known as Cherry Hill Oak.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

Kevin Phillips, Port Royal Town Council

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

16. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT A MONETARY DONATION TO BE USED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS CHERRY HILL OAK**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to approve a resolution authorizing the Interim County Administrator to accept a monetary donation to be used for the maintenance of the property known as Cherry Hill Oak.

Discussion: Chairman Passiment noted that the County is purchasing the Cherry Hill Oak property and that the current owners are donating \$50,000 for maintenance.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

17. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HILTON HEAD NO. 1 PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$23,000,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District, South Carolina to issue not exceeding \$23,000,000 of general obligation bonds; and providing for other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

18. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$23,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE HILTON HEAD NO. 1 PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF SUCH PUBLIC HEARING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO**

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve a resolution ordering a public hearing to be held on the issuance of not exceeding \$23,000,000 aggregate principal amount of general obligation bonds of the Hilton Head No1 Public Service District, South Carolina; providing for the publication of the notice of such public hearing; and other matters relating thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

19. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT COST RECOVERY MODEL AND REVISED AIRLINE RATES (*FISCAL IMPACT: \$500,000 positive revenue*)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve a resolution to approve the Hilton Head Island Airport Cost Recovery Model and Revised Airline Rates.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

20. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT SC AERONAUTICS COMMISSION GRANT OFFER 23-029 FOR \$12,000,000 FOR HXD TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS (*FISCAL IMPACT: no fiscal impact*)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve a resolution to accept SC Aeronautics Commission Grant Offer 23-029 for \$12,000,000 for HXD Terminal Improvements.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

21. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION BY THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE BEAUFORT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT FACILITY USE RATE CHANGES (ARW) FACILITY USE RATE CHANGES (*FISCAL IMPACT: Associated Airport Revenue \$71,434.00 FY23 and \$100,000.00 estimated FY24*)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=2451>

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to approve a resolution by the Beaufort County Council authorizing the Beaufort Executive Airport facility use rate changes (ARW) facility use rate changes.

Discussion: Vice-Chairman McElynn explained the increase in monthly hanger rent and aircraft tie-down rates, which were unanimously approved by the Airport Board.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

22. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AND AN INTERIM LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR SHUTTLE SERVICES BETWEEN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND THE BEST OF HILTON HEAD (*FISCAL IMPACT: Hilton Head Island Airport will receive a monthly fee of \$1.00 per passenger*)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve a resolution and an Interim Letter of Agreement for shuttle services between Beaufort County and The Best of Hilton Head.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

23. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=2565>

1. Tony Criscitiello
2. Roy Brown
3. Teresa White
4. Lee Grenade
5. John Schartner

24. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE ADVICE RELATES TO PENDING LITIGATION (BEAUFORT COUNTY V JAMES BECKERT)

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE ADVICE RELATES TO PENDING LITIGATION (PINE ISLAND PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC, ET AL. V BEAUFORT COUNTY)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Vice-Chairman McElynn, to enter into an executive session.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

25. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/271144?ts=3460>

No matters arose out of the executive session.

Skip Hoagland was provided three minutes to speak.

26. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 6:48 p.m.

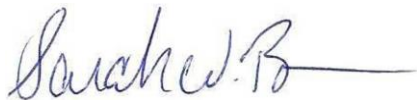
COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



BY: _____

Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:



Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: October 23, 2023