



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, February 27, 2023
5:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's Website to hear the whole discussion or presentation on a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035>

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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 York Glover
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Thomas Reitz
Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik

ABSENT

Council Member Alice Howard

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vice Chairman McElynn led 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

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the minutes of February 13, 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/209035?ts=211>

County Administrator Greenway briefed the Council on the appeal made by Bay Point representatives on the Zoning Board of Appeal's decision to deny the Bay Point Ecotourism item and highlighted the work of three employees: Rachel Berrios with the Assessor's Office, Karen Morris with EMS, and Joey Joseph with the Detention Center.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=777>

1. Megan James
2. Allen Patterson
3. Walter Oliver

Chairman Passiment called for a recess at 5:23 PM.

4. Lynn Greeley

8. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=1580>

Council Member Reitz updated the Council on the Beaufort Executive Airport renovation and April ribbon-cutting event, the Hilton Head Airport bidding timelines and reconstruction, and vacancies on the Airport Board.

Council Member Tabernik commented on her participation in the County Transportation Committee's retreat.

Council Member Lawson discussed the consent agenda items originating from the Finance Committee, including the need for further clarification on consent agenda item 2, which is the Third Reading of an ordinance for a text amendment to the Community Development Code (CDC): Section 5.11.90.D (Penalty for Clear Cutting Prior to Development) to increase the penalties for clear-cutting property and provide guidance on acceptable forestry practices.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=1843>

County Administrator Greenway briefed the Council on consent agenda item 2, including the procedures for tree cutting and the Planning and Zoning Department permit process. Mr. Greenway also clarified that the ordinance does not regulate brush hogging.

Council Member Bartholomew asked about equipment regulations, and County Administrator Greenway said no ordinance governs equipment that can be used.

Council Member Glover asked about the ordinance's impact on property development. Planning Department Director Merchant commented that this ordinance applies to property that is five acres or greater with a focus on forestry and silviculture and that another section of the code regulates the removal of trees prior to development.

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

Discussion: Council Member McElynn commented that there was a public hearing on consent agenda item 2 and ongoing confusion about the item, and his appreciation of Council Member Lawson's commitment to continue to investigate the matter further to determine if additional action is necessary.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

10. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1230 N OKATIE HIGHWAY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE COOLER TRACT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATING COUNTY SHERIFF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS TO THIS PROPERTY AND FOR OTHER FIRST RESPONDER FACILITIES AS DESIRED**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents and provide funding for the purchase of real property located at 1230 N Okatie Highway, commonly known as the Cooler Tract, for the purpose of consolidating county sheriff facilities and operations to this property and for other first responder facilities as desired.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY ORDINANCE 2022/33 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BEAUFORT COUNTY BUDGET TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO PAY FOR THE PORT ROYAL LIBRARY, TRANSFER FUNDING FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE BATHROOMS AT BRUCE EDGERLY FIELD AND BURTON WELLS, THE USE OF FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE EMS/ FIRE HOUSE IN BLUFFTON, FUNDING OF THE PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK FOR THE USCB CONVOCATION CENTER FACILITY, FUNDING OF A PATHWAY AT THE DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS BUILDING, FUNDING OF REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS OF CIP, ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER, FUNDING OF A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT, SUSPEND THE CURRENT YEAR TRANSFER FROM THE HOSPITALITY TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND, FUNDING OF DIRT ROAD CONTRACT 54, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=2581>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the first reading of an ordinance to amend Beaufort County Ordinance 2022/33 for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Beaufort County Budget to provide for additional appropriations to pay for the Port Royal Library, transfer funding from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund for the bathrooms as Bruce Edgerly Field and Burton Wells, the use of funds to complete the EMS/Fire House in Bluffton, funding of the planning and design work for the USCB Convocation Center Facility, funding of a pathway at the Disability and Special Needs Building, funding of repairs and replacements of CIP, additional funding to the Island Recreation Center, funding of a cost of living adjustment suspend the current year transfer from the Hospitality Tax Fund to the General Fund, funding of Dirt Road Contract 54, and other matters related thereto.

Discussion: Council Member Glover and County Administrator Greenway discussed funding and facility design plans for the USCB Convocation Center.

Council Member Cunningham and County Administrator Greenway discussed public use of the facility.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

12. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE STATE 2% ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUND AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve the first reading of an ordinance appropriating funds from the State 2% Accommodations Tax Fund and other matters related thereto.

Discussion: Council Member Bartholomew confirmed accounting would be required and that no entity was awarded over their original ask.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

13. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX FUND AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the first reading of an ordinance appropriating funds from the Local Accommodations Tax and Local Hospitality Tax Fund and other matters related thereto.

Discussion: County Administrator Greenway commented that any entity receiving funding through this ordinance would have to acknowledge the Beaufort County sponsorship in event materials.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO PURCHASE AND TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 333 & 335 BUCKWALTER PARKWAY

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=2901>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents to purchase and to fund the purchase of real property located at 333 & 335 Buckwalter Parkway.

Discussion: County Administrator Greenway discussed how the property purchased from the United Methodist Church would be used for affordable housing, and this ordinance allows for the purchase of that property.

Council Member Cunningham commented on his support for the affordable housing location and his idea to hold a town hall to inform the public about the affordable housing plan.

Council Member Lawson commented that the County is working to create affordable housing through an open process and with public input.

Council discussed the pathway along Buckwalter Parkway.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

15. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO PURCHASE AND TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF A PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1505 SALEM ROAD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=3154>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents to purchase and to fund the purchase of a portion of real property located at 1505 Salem Road.

Discussion: Special Projects Director Amundson commented on the requirement to provide space for certain agencies, including DHEC, and the relocation of those entities to move forward with affordable housing plans in downtown Beaufort.

Council Member Cunningham commended County staff for their work to create affordable housing options.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

16. CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/209035?ts=3316>

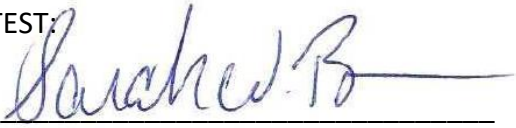
1. Fred Hamilton
2. Grant McClure
3. Arnold Brown
4. Mare Deckard
5. Skip Hoagland

17. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: around 6:11 PM

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: 
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST: 

Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: April 10, 2023