



**County Council of
Beaufort County**
County Council Meeting

Chairman

Joseph F. Passiment, JR.

Vice Chairman

D. Paul Sommerville

Council Members

Logan Cunningham
Gerald Dawson
Brian E. Flewelling
York Glover, SR.
Chris Hervocho
Alice G. Howard
Mark Lawson
Lawrence P. McElynn
Stu Rodman

Interim County Administrator

Eric Greenway

Clerk to Council

Sarah W. Brock

Administration Building

Robert Smalls Complex
100 Ribaut Road

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County Council Meeting Minutes

County Council of Beaufort County

Monday, March 08, 2021 at 6:00 PM

This meeting was held in a hybrid setting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Vice Chairman D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Chris Hervocho
Council Member Stu Rodman
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member Logan Cunningham

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Rodman called for a moment of silence for DJ Fields, Jr. a Bluffton High Student that was shot and killed over the weekend as well as Kylan Simmons who was injured during the shooting. Council Member Rodman then led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

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

Chairman Passiment stated public notice of this meeting had been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the SC FOIA Act.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Amend: it was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling to amend the agenda to add an item regarding the removal of the current Emergency Mask Ordinance (2021-01).

Discussion: Council Member McElynn stated he preferred to let the ordinance expire in April as is. He further stated he disagreed with the motion to end the mask ordinance prematurely.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Council Member Hervocho, Council Member Rodman, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Flewelling, and Council Member Cunningham. Voting Nay: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Dawson. Motion to amend failed 5:6.

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Rodman to amend the agenda as follows: Remove action item number 11 completely, move consent agenda items two and five to public hearing and action items for discussion. Motion approved without objection.

Main Motion: It was moved by Council Member Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve the agenda as amended. Motion approved without objection.

5. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

To see Interim County Administrator, Eric Greenway's report please click the link below.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/114137>

6. DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Council Member Glover read and presented a proclamation in honor of Disabilities and Special Needs Awareness month

7. US 278 INDEPENDENT REVIEW PRESENTATION

Assistant County Administrator, Jared Fralix discussed the information the county has received from SCDOT as well as alternatives and an update from the oversight committee. To see the entire presentation please click the following link. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/114137>

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Greg John, Bluffton Resident, spoke regarding item number 5 on the consent agenda pertaining to his lot on May River Road and supporting the zoning amendment to a T2 Rural Center.

Blaine McClure spoke in favor of item number 5 on the consent agenda regarding of the rezoning on May River Road.

Mike Covert, Former Council Member, sent in a letter supporting item number 5 on the consent agenda.

Robbin Buchanan, St. Helena Island Resident, emailed stating the unconstitutional mask mandate must end.

Eric Greenway, Interim County Administrator, read 4 comments into the record that were submitted to the planning commission opposing item number 5 on the consent agenda.

9. LIAISON AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member McElynn spoke regarding the service learning grants and asked ACA Chuck Atkinson to address items 2, 3, and 4 on Beaufort County's Priority List.

Council Member Rodman spoke regarding the 278 Corridor as well as Solid Waste and the approval of the enterprise fund.

Council Member Howard spoke regarding her items on the agenda and upcoming ABC meetings she will report on at the next meeting.

Council Member Lawson spoke regarding the item he has coming forward this evening from the finance committee.

Council Member Dawson stated the Veteran Affairs office was moving to the DNS Building on Clear Water Way.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Dawson to approve the consent agenda items 1. - A resolution to establish Beaufort County's community development priority list, 3. - First reading of an ordinance approving the 2021 awards of local accommodations and hospitality; 4. - Rural and critical land preservation program consulting services for Beaufort County; 6. - Third reading of an ordinance regarding the amendment to article 7, section 7.3.30.e (appeals); 7. - Third reading of reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of utility easement #901093 encumbering property owned by Beaufort County, 8. - Third reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of utility easement #901094 encumbering property owned by Beaufort County. Motion approved without objection.

11. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP KNOWN AS BTAG.

Motion: It was moved by made by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling to approve a resolution for the Beaufort County Transportation Advisory Group.

Discussion: Council Member Hervochon stated he intends to vote against this resolution. This committee hasn't met in 12 years or so and he finds the resurrection of this committee and timing to be curious as there are other subcommittees that serve this purpose.

Council Member Rodman stated we are going into a 10-year capitol plan for transportation so this committee is needed and is also a good mechanism for the mayors and municipalities to participate.

Council Member Flewelling stated this group is advisory in nature and not regulatory and so it really doesn't add a lot to the process except advice and advice is always welcome.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Council Member Glover, Council Member Rodman, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Flewelling. Voting Nay: Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Dawson, and Council Member Cunningham. The motion passes 7:4.

12. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REGARDING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT/REZONING REQUEST FOR 1.96 ACRES (R600 036 000 015E 0000) AT THE INTERSECTION MAY RIVER ROAD AND BENTON LANE FROM T3 EDGE TO T2 RURAL CENTER:

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Lawson to approve first reading of an ordinance regarding a zoning map amendment/rezoning request for 1.96 acres (r600 036 000 015e 0000) at the intersection May River Road and Benton Lane from T3 edge to T2 rural center.

Discussion: Council Member Howard stated this came from her committee and she is going to agree with the planning commission and vote against it as she considers it spot zoning.

Council Member Sommerville stated he was going to vote against it for reasons previously stated as well as spot zoning.

Council Member Flewelling stated he is going to vote in favor of it at first reading, but he also is concerned about spot zoning.

Council Member Lawson stated this property is in his district and the owners have held onto this property for a very long time and the property at one point had a commercial building on it. The owners have the backup to show this was at one point a commercial property and he supports the owners request.

Council Member Cunningham stated he drove to the property and is extremely surprised this isn't commercial property as well based on the properties around it. The owners had the property approved not once but twice for a gas station but that is not what they are looking for now. They are looking at putting a law office or something of that nature which will not affect noise at night.

Council Member Glover asked Interim Administrator Greenway if there was another way to rezone this and inquired about what kind of notice the property owners were given. To see further discussion of this item please click the link below.
<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/114137>

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Council Member Hervochoon, Council Member Rodman, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Flewelling, and Council Member Cunningham. Voting Nay: Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Dawson. Motion passed 6:5.

13-16. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, Seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the boards and commissions items listed below. Motion approved without objection.

- APPOINTMENT OF ROGER JADOWN FROM DISTRICT 5 TO THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.
- APPROVAL OF JOHN MAFFEI TO THE RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION BOARD.
APPOINTMENT OF BLAKE WHITE TO THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE BOARD
- RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PRISCILLA DRAKE FROM DISTRICT 4 TO THE DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

27. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Blaine McClure stated the majority of the comments Mr. Greenway read were already addressed and not necessarily considered neighbors.

Greg John stated an original complainant called him and stated she was withdrawing her complaint having acquired additional information.

26. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00PM

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: