



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

**Chairman**

Joseph F. Passiment, JR.

**Vice Chairman**

D. Paul Sommerville

**Council Members**

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

**County Administrator**

Ashley M. Jacobs

**Clerk to Council**

Sarah W. Brock

**Administration Building**

Robert Smalls Complex  
100 Ribaut Road

**Contact**

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# County Council Caucus Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

**PRESENT**

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment  
Vice Chairman D. Paul Sommerville  
Council Member Michael Covert  
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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

County Administrator Ashley Jacobs discussed Funding for Hungry Hearts and the possibility of funding this with the Community Services Grant stating this grant would not be a good fit but there are other options. Council has \$72,000 in the budget that can be appropriated to fund the \$25,000 Hungry Hearts project. Based on research by Ms. Jacobs, there is a County that has established a loan program that is funded with \$1M from their emergency fund and provides grants for \$7,500 to small businesses and non-profit organizations. If Council would like to pursue this, Beaufort County's small business development office could administer these grants to those that meet the criteria.

Council Member McElynn asked if Hungry Hearts was a 501C3. Council Member Flewelling responded that it was and that Council has the paperwork.

Council Member Covert would like to discuss what the options are to fund this program.

Chairman Passiment feels that this matter deserves discussion however, his concern is the requestors are asking we give them \$25,000 to provide meals to individuals and are not within our judiciary responsibility.

Council Member Flewelling would like to see more information on the idea brought forth by County Administrator.

Council Member Covert thinks the program the County Administrator researched would take a long time to come to fruition and explained that the money would not be given to individuals but to the Community Foundation of

the Lowcountry who handles the non-profit industry and would like to see this moved forward with strict stipulations.

Council Member Glover stated he understands the urgency of things happening now, but wants to make sure whatever is established that it can be implemented in other areas of the County and would like to have Ms. Jacobs continue to research the information and bring forth a recommendation.

Council Member Rodman is in favor of helping and allocating a certain dollar amount and agreed with moving forward with the County Administrators suggestion.

Ms. Jacobs will look at the fund balance and come up with an amount that could be allocated for this program and bring forth as a recommendation to Council.

Council Member Howard agrees with Ms. Jacobs suggestion helping businesses with twenty employees or less.

Council Member Hervochon mentions that the federal government has put forth some big programs exactly for this nature one in particular called PPP that guarantees payroll for 8 weeks. The council should think about any program they do within the same context as those programs as well. Council Member Hervochon is not comfortable with allocating funds because Council shouldn't turn into an organization that props up small businesses or charity and takes these federal programs into context if we do.

Vice Chairman Sommerville understands the philanthropic motives and the need but suggests to be careful about creating a situation that may cause ill will. There are organizations in Beaufort County that are very good at determining needs.

Council Member Dawson agrees with Council Member Howard going through the Small Business loan process.

Chairman Passiment stated that the County Administrator will forward information and recommendation to Community Services.

Council Member McElynn wanted to speak about the election board making a presentation and organization with the training officers, recruiting poll workers, training poll workers and an early voting location on Hilton Head. is needed especially with this being a Presidential election this year. Missed the June primary and the election board cannot afford to put this off any longer or Presidential Election will be missed. Would like to get this on the Community Services Agenda.

Council Member Dawson wanted to mention the settlement for Retirees, the media advertised that settlement over the weekend and a lot of communication from those not included in that settlement should be coming through. Wants to know how we make all the retirees whole as far as compensation is concerned.

Council Member Flewelling suggests discussing this matter during an executive session to avoid litigation with other retirees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm

Ratified on: