



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, October 23, 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/277205>

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member Thomas Reitz

ABSENT

Vice-Chairman Lawrence McElynn
Council Member David P. Bartholomew

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Council Member Tabernik 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 Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Lawson, to approve the agenda.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Lawson, to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023 (1st meeting at 11:00 a.m.), September 11, 2023 (2nd meeting at 1:00 p.m.), and September 11, 2023 (3rd meeting at 5:00 p.m.).

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/277205?ts=171>

Interim County Administrator Robinson commented on the Stormwater Department's receipt of a letter of appreciation from Council Member Glover on behalf of his constituents, recognizing the Department's drainage work on Eternity Lane. Interim County Administrator Robinson also commented on his acceptance of a \$15,886 EMS Grant-in-Aid from South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control for Beaufort County EMS and Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue.

Interim County Administrator Robinson highlighted three employees: William Love, Executive Director of the Disabilities and Special Needs Department; Stuart Forrest, IT Analyst with the Information Technology Systems Management Department; and Ezetta Gibbs, Programs and Services Coordinator at the Beaufort County Detention Center.

7. PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION TO THE YOUNG MARINES RECOGNIZING RED RIBBON WEEK

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=820>

Council Member Howard presented a proclamation to the Young Marines recognizing Red Ribbon Week from October 23rd to 31st.

8. PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES / BEAUFORT COUNTY ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION RECOGNIZING RED RIBBON WEEK

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=1007>

Chairman Passiment presented a proclamation to the Community Services/Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division recognizing Red Ribbon Week from October 23rd to 31st.

9. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE PENN CENTER'S 39TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAYS CELEBRATION

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=1268>

Council Member Glover presented a proclamation recognizing the Penn Center's 39th Annual Heritage Days Celebration from November 9th to 11th.

10. PRESENTATION BY THE COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CCDC) WORKFORCE HOUSING FUNDING

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=1540>

Alan Wolf, Chairman of the CCDC and President of the Serg Restaurant Group, presented the Coastal Community Development Corporation's formation in February 2023, its mission to increase the availability of homes for the local and regional workforce, and efforts to lower costs by pursuing grants,

low-cost capital, and investment from the community. Mr. Wolf also provided an overview of CCDC's phased approach to developing workforce housing, including the three units that have already been secured on Hilton Head Island.

Council Member Reitz and Mr. Wolf discussed area median income (AMI) and how property value appreciation would be addressed.

Council Member Glover and Mr. Wolf discussed the expected impact of CCDC, which has a short-term goal of securing 50 hours per year for workforce housing.

Council Member Cunningham and Mr. Wolf discussed the impact on the housing market, with Mr. Wolf noting that a large amount of inventory is regularly changing hands. Mr. Wolf added that it would be approximately five to ten years before the housing market is impacted.

Council Member Tabernik suggested adding an agenda item to the next Community Services and Land Use Committee to discuss how the Interim County Administrator and County staff could assist with funding opportunities.

11. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=2794>

1. Skip Hoagland

12. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=2887>

Council Member Brown noted that she and Council Member Howard attended a Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board meeting and the Board's interest in having businesses use paper instead of plastic bags.

Council Member Howard commented on the Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board's new recycling ad for gas stations and the Stormwater Management Board meeting, which covered the cycle of stormwater fees.

Council Member Tabernik commented on her attendance at May River High School's Social Issues Gallery Walk and provided an overview of some projects.

Council Member Dawson highlighted the grand opening of two new pickleball courts at the Burton Wells Complex.

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 AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF WAY ON DIANAH'S DRIVE

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Interim County Administrator to execute any and all documents necessary to accept right of way on Dianah's Drive.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

15. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 30 HUNTER ROAD WITH EDISON FOARD, INC. (FISCAL IMPACT: Hilton Head Island Airport will receive income generated through lease revenue --Tenant shall pay \$1,390.00 for office space (814 square feet x \$20.50/12) and \$1,698 for warehouse space (1,406 square feet x \$14.50/12) in monthly base rental payments for premises located at 30 Hunter Rd. These lease rates are in accordance with current Beaufort County lease policies)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Reitz, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Interim County Administrator to enter into a lease agreement for real property located at 30 Hunter Road with Edison Foard, Inc.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

16. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 39 AIRPORT CIRCLE WITH HIGH TIDE AVIATION SCENIC TOURS (FISCAL IMPACT: Beaufort Executive Airport will receive income generated through fuel sales, the airport's standard 3% operating agreement, and lease revenue --Tenant shall pay \$231.00 (140 square feet x \$19.80/12) in monthly base rental payments for premises located at the Beaufort Executive Airport terminal. These lease rates are in accordance with current Beaufort County lease policies)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Reitz, to approve the public hearing and second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Interim County Administrator to enter into a lease agreement for real property located at 39 Airport Circle with High Tide Aviation Scenic Tours.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

17. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BEAUFORT COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 2023/22) TO PROVIDE ROLLOVER APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,432,768 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (FUND 1040) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BUT NOT COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FISCAL IMPACT: This will increase the Capital Improvement Fund's budget from \$21,232,455 to \$24,665,223. There will be a balance of \$703,423 remaining in Fund Balance should 100% of all budgeted line items be expended FY'24)**

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's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023/22) to provide rollover appropriations in the amount of \$3,432,768 from the Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 1040) for Capital Improvement Projects approved but not completed in Fiscal Year 2023.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

18. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES ORDINANCE CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-67 (A) (B), APPENDIX A&B (FISCAL IMPACT: Updated Rate Schedule will have a minor fiscal revenue impact.)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the first reading of an ordinance adopting amendments to the Business and Professional Licenses Ordinance Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-67 (A) (BB), Appendix A&B.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

19. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE SALARIES FOR VARIOUS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TO AMEND SECTION 2-347 OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF LAWS ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR VARIOUS ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (FISCAL IMPACT: Potential salary amounts owed totals \$45,417.78 to be paid from the payroll contingency account)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the first reading of an ordinance ratifying the salaries for various elected officials and to amend Section 2-347 of the Beaufort County Code of Laws establishing the salaries for various elected and appointed officials.

Discussion: Council Member Tabernik commented on the Council’s previous discussions of the approved agenda items.

Council Member Glover and Chairman Passiment discussed the adjustment of the auditor and coroner’s salaries to match the 2019 salary rates.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

20. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF PORT ROYAL FOR MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS CHERRY HILL PARK (R112 032 000 0637 0000, R112 032 000 0008 0000 and R112 032 000 0064 0000)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve a resolution authorizing the Interim County Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Port Royal for maintenance of County-owned property known as Cherry Hill Park (R112 032 000 0637 0000, R112 032 000 0008 0000 and R112 032 000 0064 0000).

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

21. **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO AWARD FY24 COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$398,000 TO COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS (FISCAL IMPACT: Awarding \$398,000 of funds which Council appropriated in FY24 to community services organizations- account 10001598-556600 Together for Beaufort County/Public Welfare Subsidies)**

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve a resolution to approve recommendations to award FY24 Community Services Grant Program Funds in the amount of \$398,000 to community services organizations.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Council Member Glover noted that the award was being granted to 26 organizations within the County.

22. **CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/277205?ts=3586>

1. Skip Hoagland
2. Don Timms

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE OF LAWS SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2) DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTION 4-9-660)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Glover, to enter into an executive session.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

The Council was in executive session from 6:06 p.m. to 6:46 p.m.

24. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

No matters arose out of the executive session. Chairman Passiment noted that the firm conducting the investigation plans to bring forward suggestions during the November 13, 2023, County Council meeting's executive session and that there may be matters arising out of the executive session at that meeting.

25. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 6:47 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



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

ATTEST:



Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

Ratified: December 11, 2023