



Community Services and Public Safety Committee Beaufort County, SC

This meeting was held in County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, and virtually through Zoom.

Monday, August 15, 2022
2:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Committee's full discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/178823>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman McElynn called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

PRESENT

Committee Chairman Lawrence McElynn
Vice Chairman Logan Cunningham
Council Member Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member Stu Rodman (arrived late)
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Chris Hervochon (arrived late)
Council Member Alice Howard

ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member Mark Lawson

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman McElynn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chairman McElynn noted that the 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 Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the minutes from May 2, 2022.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

7. PRESENTATION FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY GULLAH FOUNDATION

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/178823?ts=105>

Luana Graves Sellars provided an overview of the Lowcountry Gullah Foundation's efforts to protect historic generational land and engage with the Beaufort County Gullah community, including:

- the removal of Gullah families from the delinquent tax list
- the provision of educational programming and guidance on how to resolve Heirs' Property issues
- early intervention services to prevent Gullah land losses through tax payment assistance, property resolution assistance, exploration of land use options, financial management guidance, and succession planning
- the establishment of credibility and trust, organizational coordination, and strategic partnerships
- future program development to create content, implementation strategies, and a multimedia marketing campaign
- a series of workshops to discuss Heir's Property issues and opportunities, financial literacy, economic development, land use options, and the addition of infrastructure to property

Discussion: Council Member Howard and Sellars discussed mailouts and expansion into other counties.

Council Member Cunningham and Sellars discussed the salary portion of the Lowcountry Gullah Foundation Budget for 2022-2023.

Committee Chairman McElynn asked about the Foundation's IRS designation and offered to help raise awareness through assistance from the County's Public Information Office.

Council Member Rodman discussed the creation of an ordinance to aid Gullah land protection.

Council Member Glover and Sellars discussed the crucial need to establish trust and educate people about solutions to Heir's Property issues.

8. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF WENDY BUKOWSKI TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD FOR A SECOND TERM WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF 2026

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to recommend approval of the reappointment of Wendy Bukowski to the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Board for a second term with an expiration date of 2026.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Ratified: October 10, 2022