



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, April 24, 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/224626>

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 Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik

ABSENT

Council Member Thomas Reitz

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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 Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, 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 Dawson, to approve the March 13, 2023, and March 20, 2023, minutes.

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/224626?ts=186>

County Administrator Greenway highlighted three employees: Daniel Anderson, Jerrod Houston, and Rosalyn Smalls. Mr. Greenway also discussed the intergovernmental agreement with the Marine Corps Air Station to allow the use of County vehicles for the Airshow. He also thanked MCAS officials for the invitation to the April 22 - 23 event.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224626?ts=666>

1. Ed Atkins
2. Tom Donahue
3. Paula Galane
4. Skip Hoagland
5. Inez Miller

8. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224626?ts=1501>

Council Member Howard highlighted the Stormwater Management Utility Board meeting at Brewer Memorial Park and the April 20th public symposium on the Reimagine Ribaut Road Project.

Council Member Tabernik highlighted the April 20th Narcan training held at four Beaufort County libraries.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

10. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF THE OUTSTANDING BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2013A, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the redemption of the outstanding Beaufort County South Carolina General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013A, and other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

11. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CODE (CDC): ARTICLE 3, DIVISION 3.4, SECTION 3.4.50- CULTURAL

PROTECTION OVERLAY (CPO); SECTION 3.4.10- PURPOSE; AND DIVISION 3.1, SECTION 3.1.70- LAND USE DEFINITIONS, RECREATION FACILITY: GOLF COURSE, TO UPDATE DEFINITIONS, REGULATIONS, AND STANDARDS IN THE CULTURAL PROTECTION OVERLAY ZONE

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224626?ts=1655>

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

1. Queen Quet
2. Mike Hughes
3. Elvio Tropeano
4. Arnold Brown
5. Marilyn Hemingway

The Chairman closed the public comment.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to approve a public hearing and second reading of an ordinance for text amendments to the Community Development Code (CDC): Article 3, Division 3.4, Section 3.4.50- Cultural Protection Overlay (CPO); Section 3.4.10- Purpose; And Division 3.1, Section 3.1.70- Land Use Definitions, Recreation Facility: Golf Course, To Update Definitions, Regulations, And Standards In The Cultural Protection Overlay Zone.

Discussion: Council Member Glover urged Council to pass the item, and discussed the CPO Committee's purpose to strengthen and clarify the Comprehensive Plan and how the CPO is aimed at protecting the culture of the district.

Council Member Brown commented on a meeting she had with Mr. Tropeano, restrictions on shellfish harvesting, and the need for greater community engagement.

Council Member Bartholomew proposed a town hall on this issue to gain more community feedback.

Vice-Chairman McElynn commented on the recent application for development on Pine Island, which could lead to 168 houses, and the rights of the property owner. Mr. McElynn also advocated for a postponement of this item to May 22 to allow for time to work with stakeholders to develop the best course of action.

Motion to Postpone to a Definitive Time: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, second by Council Member Cunningham to postpone the vote on this item until the May 22 County Council meeting.

Discussion: Council Members Glover and Howard voiced their opposition to the postponement.

Council Member Dawson commented that the property owner had made clear the number of homes and docks that would be built on Pine Island and that the County cannot stop the property owner from building according to the current zoning laws. Mr. Dawson also said that a town hall might be helpful for clarifying community opinions on the development of Pine Island.

Council Member Cunningham commented that he feels like more time is needed as the process for this text amendment has been fast-paced and that people in the community suggest the County purchase the property, but the funds are not available, especially since funds from the Green Space Program cannot be used.

Council Member Lawson commented that the long-term impacts need to be considered and that he is willing to consider postponement.

Council Member Tabernik asked about actions that would occur in the interim if the item was postponed. Vice-Chairman McElynn commented that people seem opposed to development on Pine Island and encouraged greater community input.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Brown, Council Member Cunningham, and Council Member Lawson. Voting Nay: Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, and Council Member Tabernik. The motion to postpone to a definitive date was defeated by 5:5.

The Vote - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice-Chairman McElynn, Council Member Bartholomew, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, and Council Member Tabernik. Voting Nay: Council Member Brown, and Council Member Cunningham. The main motion passed by 8:2.

12. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVERY FUND (\$299,376.00)

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224626?ts=4898>

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

1. William Smith

The Chairman closed the public comment.

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve a public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to accept and to appropriate funds received from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (\$299,376.00).

Discussion: The Council made it clear that this item is for an opioid settlement.

Council Member Tabernik commented that the funds are specifically for opioid abatement.

Vice-Chairman McElynn highlighted that the funds would be used to prevent, educate, treat, and rehabilitate.

County Administrator Greenway commented on engagement with Beaufort County School District Superintendent Rodriguez to develop quality programming.

Council Member Cunningham commented that Beaufort County is trying to spread knowledge about opioid addiction in the community.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

13. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVERY FUND (\$612,733.00)

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve a public hearing and second reading of an ordinance to accept and appropriate funds received from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (\$612,733.00).

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.

14. PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT ENCUMBERING PROPERTY OWNED BY BEAUFORT COUNTY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF THE CRYSTAL LAKE PARK OFFICE BUILDING

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the public hearing and a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute a lease agreement encumbering property owned by Beaufort County known as a portion of the Crystal Lake Park Office Building.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

15. THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT/REZONING REQUEST FOR 2.81 ACRES (R600 008 000 0625 0000) AT THE INTERSECTION OF OKATIE HIGHWAY (170) AND LOWCOUNTRY DRIVE (462) FROM T2 RURAL (T2R) TO C4 COMMUNITY CENTER MIXED-USE (C4CCMU)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to approve the third reading of an ordinance for a zoning map amendment/rezoning request for 2.81 acres (R600 008 000 0625 0000) at the intersection of Okatie Highway (170) and Lowcountry Drive (462) from T2 Rural (T2r) to C4 Community Center Mixed-Use (C4CCMU).

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

16. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY NOW KNOWN AS CHERRY POINT PRESERVE LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 170

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman McElynn, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve a resolution authorizing the demolition of structures on County-owned property known as Cherry Point Preserve located on Highway 170.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

17. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE AN AMBULANCE FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE BUDGET SURPLUS (\$328,530.00)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve a resolution to purchase an ambulance from Beaufort County Emergency Medical Service budget surplus (\$328,530.00).

Discussion: Chairman Passiment provided background on the ambulance purchase.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

18. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/224626?ts=5601>

1. Skip Hoagland
2. Arnold Brown
3. James Smalls
4. William Smith


19. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 5:46 PM

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: 
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:


Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council
Ratified: June 12, 2023