



Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, August 21, 2023

3:00 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/269659>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Lawson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Lawson
Vice-Chairman Anna Maria Tabernik
Council Member David P. Bartholomew
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Ex-Officio Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Thomas Reitz (arrived late)

ABSENT

Council Member York Glover

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Lawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chairman Lawson 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 Passiment, seconded by Council Member Dawson, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023, May 15, 2023, and June 19, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

No citizen comments.

7. DIVISION UPDATE FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, DALE BUTTS

Please view the video stream on the County's website for the full discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/269659?ts=103>

Assistant County Administrator Dale Butts provided an update on the county-wide mail-out of assessment notices and appeals assistance to be offered by the Assessor's Office at public libraries starting on October 3rd. ACA Butts also highlighted that beginning in September, monthly financial reports with department expenditures will be presented during Committee meetings. ACA Butts noted that the County's financial reports and a spending portal are publicly available on the County's website.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik commented that the website allows users to select the fiscal year and that the current fiscal year is 2024.

Council Members Howard and McElynn expressed their appreciation for the assistance provided to constituents.

8. RECOMMEND OF APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HILTON HEAD NO. 1 PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$23,000,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Please view the video stream on the County's website for the entire discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/269659?ts=269>

Sara Weathers, Associate with Pope Flynn, briefed the Committee on the proposed issuance of general obligation bonds, the use of funds for emergency preparedness and strengthening resiliency, and the approval process through the County Council and the Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD).

Pete Nardi, General Manager of the Hilton Head PSD, provided an overview of the PSD's functions, governance, and planned projects. During the presentation, Mr. Nardi highlighted the \$17 million estimated cost to complete projects, with \$10 million coming from the SC Infrastructure Investment Program and \$7 million as a local match.

Council Member McElynn asked when the millage increase would be implemented. Mr. Nardi replied that an increase would be expected in 2025.

Committee Chairman Lawson requested additional information on the financing for the planned projects, given the bond request for \$23 million. Mr. Nardi clarified that the bond would cover the estimated local match, as designing, permitting, and bidding of the projects would need to be done to understand the actual costs. Ms. Weathers added that the bond can only be spent on the projects listed in the ordinance and would cover 3 to 5 years.

Council Member Passiment asked about Hilton Head PSD's previous request for \$1 million in ARPA funds. Mr. Nardi explained that the funding request was originally for a generator and a new water booster station, but the funding only covered the booster station.

Council Member McElynn asked if the local match had to be for the entire grant amount. Mr. Nardi clarified that 15% was the minimum local match required and explained Hilton Head PSD's decision to have a 42% local match to create a more competitive application.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Brown, to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District, South Carolina to issue not exceeding \$23,000,000 of general obligation bonds; and provide for other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

9. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$23,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE HILTON HEAD NO. 1 PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF SUCH PUBLIC HEARING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to recommend approval of a resolution ordering a public hearing to be held on the issuance of not exceeding \$23,000,000 aggregate principal amount of general obligation bonds of the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District, South Carolina; providing for the publication of the notice of such public hearing; and other matters related thereto.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

10. AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Please view the video stream on the County's website for the entire discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/269659?ts=1375>

Design Review Board: Recommend approval of the appointment of Kris Feldmann to the Design Review Board for a partial term with the expiration date of February 2024; Recommend approval of the appointment of Eric Walsnovich to the Design Review Board for a four-year term with the expiration date of August 2027.

Airports Board: Recommend approval of the appointment of James Starnes to the Airports Board for a two-year term with the expiration date of August 2025; Recommend approval of the appointment of Rich Sells to the Airports Board for a two-year term with the expiration date of August 2025.

Planning Commission: recommend approval of the appointment of Eugene Meyers to the Planning Commission for a partial term with the expiration date of February 2025.

Item 10 was voted on as a package.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member McElynn, to recommend approval of the appointments to the Design Review Board, Airports Board, and Planning Commission.

Discussion: Council Member Bartholomew asked who conducted the interviews for these appointments. The Committee discussed which Council Members helped conduct the interviews.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

Frank Turano, Hilton Head PSD Chairman, thanked the Committee for their forward thinking and emphasized the importance of proactively addressing future water availability issues.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2): DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS (DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FERRY)

PURSUANT TO S. C. CODE SECTIONS 30-4-70(A)(2) AND (A)(1) TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO A PUBLIC BODY AND DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF SUCH PERSONS (2024 SUPER-PENNY ADVISORY BOARD)

PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70(A)(2) TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY (COTTON HALL)

Motion: It was moved by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Tabernik, to enter into executive session.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

The executive session started at 3:29 PM and ended at 4:34 PM.

12. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Please view the video stream on the County's website for the entire discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/269659?ts=1698>

Committee Chairman Lawson provided an overview of the Cotton Hall purchase. He explained that the Council had approved \$4.5 million for the purchase but had expected to receive a \$1.5 million grant from the South Carolina Conservation Bank. He noted that the County actually received \$1 million from the Conservation Bank but was planning to move forward with the purchase because it was still within the approved \$4.5 million amount.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: at or around 4:36 PM

Ratified: October 16, 2023