



Public Facilities Committee Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, August 22, 2022
3:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the complete discussion or presentation on a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Rodman called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

PRESENT

Committee Chairman Stu Rodman
Committee Vice-Chair York Glover
Council Member Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member Chris Hervocho
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Logan Cunningham

ABSENT

Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member Gerald Dawson

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Rodman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chairman Rodman 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 to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to move item number 18 to the beginning of the agenda and to allow for citizen comment after the presentation of the Administration's recommendations.

The Vote - The motion to amend was approved without objection.

Main Motion: It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the agenda as amended.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Sommerville, to approve the minutes from June 20, 2022.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dave Barton read a statement in opposition to item number 17.

TO: *Beaufort County Council Public Facilities Committee*

FROM: *Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail*

SUBJECT: *Agenda Item 17 - Recommended approval of an ordinance providing authorization for golf carts to use multi-use trails and paths*

Regarding the subject Item 17 of today's Public Facilities Committee meeting, the Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail respectfully disagrees with this recommendation as it relates to the Spanish Moss Trail, which is effectively a scenic linear park located in the former railroad right-of-way between the Town of Port Royal and Clarendon Road in northern Beaufort County. In response to the overall lack of parks in Beaufort County, the Spanish Moss Trail was developed and constructed to provide its citizens a place to experience the outdoors in a manner that provides a corridor for peaceful and healthy physical activity such as walking, running and bicycle riding, without having to worry about motorized vehicles whizzing by without warning. Allowing Golf Carts on the Spanish Moss Trail would effectively change the usage and experience of all who use it. In addition to the philosophical differences and safety concerns, the County must also consider enforcement of regulations pertaining to motorized vehicles, as well as changes in jurisdictions along the Trail, including the Town of Port Royal and the City of Beaufort. For these and surely other reasons, we must speak for the citizens of Beaufort County when we say that golf cart usage on the Spanish Moss Trail is a bad idea that should not go beyond this point.

Respectfully Submitted,

Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail Board

7. DIVISION UPDATE FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, JARED FRALIX

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253?ts=2276>

Assistant County Administrator Fralix updated the Committee on the contract awards in agenda items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Agenda Item 9: Council Member Glover and Mr. Fralix discussed the decision to stop at the Russell Bridge in the re-imagining Ribaut Road Master Plan, the hope for the plan to be funded as part of a future sales

tax project, and the traffic and public input components of the plan. Council Member Howard commented on the Town of Port Royal's study to promote economic development.

Agenda Item 10: Council Member Howard and Mr. Fralix discussed improvements to the north ramp on SC 170. Council Member Glover and Mr. Fralix discussed the relationship with Jasper and Hardeeville.

8. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO AWARD J.S. CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR IFB#060922E BLUFFTON PARKWAY PATHWAY (FISCAL IMPACT: \$245,101.32)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve an award to J.S. Construction, Inc. for IFB #060922E Bluffton Parkway Pathway.

Items 8 through 13 were approved as a package.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

9. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO AWARD THE RE-IMAGINING RIBAUT ROAD MASTER PLAN TO STANTEC (FISCAL IMPACT: TOTAL PROJECT \$297,631.84)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve an award to the Re-Imagining Ribaut Road Master Plan to Stantec.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

10. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER DESIGN FOR NEAR-TERM INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE THE INTERSECTIONS OF SC170 AND DEL WEBB BLVD/SEAGRASS STATION RD AND SC170 AND OLDFIELD WAY TO THE SC170 DESIGN CONTRACT (NEAR TERM IMPROVEMENTS) (FISCAL IMPACT: TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$507,850)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the change order design for near-term intersection improvements to include the intersections of SC 170 and Del Webb/Seagrass Station Rd and SC 170 and Oldfield Way to the SC 170 design contract.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

11. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO AWARD IFB#050622E TO APAC ATLANTIC FOR THE AIRPORT FRONTAGE ROAD PHASE I PROJECT (FISCAL IMPACT: \$2,434,778)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the award IFB#050622E to APAC Atlantic for the Airport Frontage Road Phase I project.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

12. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER TO ICE, PLLC FOR RFP#053019E PATHWAY PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES (FISCAL IMPACT: \$3,230,518.48)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the change order to ICE PLLC. for RFP#053019E Pathway Project Design Services.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

13. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO AWARD RFQ#051922E ON-CALL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING SERVICES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the RFQ#051922E on-call transportation engineering services award.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

14. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER ADJUSTING THE SCOPE OF THE US 278 CORRIDOR PROJECT

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253?ts=3482>

Committee Chairman Rodman provided an overview of the US 278 Corridor Project.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Passiment, to recommend approval of a resolution to consider adjusting the scope of the US 278 Corridor Project.

Discussion: Committee Chairman Rodman highlighted an email sent by Senator Tom Davis.

Council Member Howard and Mr. Greenway discussed the separation of the Stoney and bridge portions of the project and the environmental assessment.

Council and Mr. Greenway discussed the one bridge option and legal concerns about the scope change.

Council Member McElynn provided an update on conversations between the Town of Hilton Head Island and the County on the project. Mr. Greenway commented on the Town's concerns about the resolution and requested to meet with Josh Gruber and the Town Manager to work out a path forward.

Council Member Passiment commented on the construction commitments made to Hilton Head Island and the fact that the project is not subject to municipal approval.

Council Member Hervochon commented on his approval of the one bridge option and raised concerns about splitting the NEPA process and the potential for roads not to be completed. Mr. Fralix discussed the NEPA process and the division between safety and congestion.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

Status: The item is forwarded to Council for approval.

15. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE WORK ON PRIVATE ROADS**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253?ts=5208>

Neil Desai discussed revisions to the private road maintenance ordinance.

Council Member Sommerville commented on the proposed ordinance's inclusion of cemetery access and asked about the section on private roads.

Council Member Passiment and Mr. Greenway discussed a prior Council policy statement about bringing roads up to County standards if there is a request to have the County maintain the roads.

Council Member Lawson objected to the item because of the expenditure of County funds for private roads.

Council Member Glover discussed road ownership and accessibility issues.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Sommerville, to recommend approval of an ordinance to provide maintenance work on private roads.

Discussion: Council Member Passiment commented that Council has time to discuss the means and methods of addressing road issues.

Council Member York commented on his approval of the proposed ordinance's language, and Council Member Sommerville commented on his approval of the proposed ordinance's safeguards.

Mr. Greenway discussed a possible commercial use exception.

The Vote – Voting Yea: Committee Chairman Rodman, Committee Vice-Chair Glover, Council Member Passiment, Council Member Sommerville, Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, and

Council Member Cunningham. Voting Nay: Council Member Hervochon and Council Member Lawson. The motion passed 7:2.

16. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF RIGHT OF WAY KNOWN AS 16TH STREET EXTENSION AND A RELATED DRAINAGE EASEMENT TO THE TOWN OF PORT ROYAL

Jared Fralix discussed the conveyance of property to the Town of Port Royal for the 16th Street Extension.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing the conveyance of right of way known as 16th Street Extension and a related drainage easement to the Town of Port Royal.

The Vote – The motion passed without objection.

17. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR GOLF CARTS TO USE MULTI-USE TRAILS AND PATHS

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253?ts=6222>

County Administrator Greenway discussed potential golf cart access on Buckwalter Road, Bluffton Parkway, and the Spanish Moss Trail and the necessary regulations for golf cart access on those pathways.

Council Member Howard asked about gas-powered golf carts. Kurt Taylor stated that the definition of a low-speed vehicle does not distinguish between gas and electric propulsion methods in golf carts.

Council Member McElynn and Kurt Taylor discussed the possible trail exclusions.

Council Members Howard and Sommerville voiced opposition to golf carts on the Spanish Moss Trail.

Council Member Cunningham discussed the popularity of golf cart living, the possible inclusion of golf cart allowances into neighborhood ordinances, and the decal system to monitor golf cart activity.

Committee Chair Rodman and Mr. Taylor discussed the need to positively approve golf cart use on the multi-use trails.

Council Member McElynn and Mr. Taylor discussed golf cart registration and other safety requirements.

Council Member Hervochon commented on his support for golf cart use on Bluffton Parkway and Buckwalter Road, but not on the Spanish Moss Trail.

Council Members Howard and Cunningham discussed input from the Town of Bluffton and its police department.

Council Member Lawson commented on pathway safety concerns and possible intersection redesign.

Council Member McElynn discussed the golf cart travel's restriction of 4 miles.

County Administrator Greenway commented on safety concerns.

Council Members Passiment and Cunningham discussed sidewalk width requirements.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Sommerville, to recommend approval of an ordinance providing authorization for golf carts to use multi-use trails and paths for Bluffton Parkway and Buckwalter Road.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

18. DISCUSSION OF THE BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL ACCESS REALIGNMENT

This item was discussed after item 5.

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/179253?ts=195>

Assistant County Administrator Jared Fralix discussed the options for Beaufort High School access realignment, including an Option Zero that would leave the signal as is and not cut through properties.

County Administrator Eric Greenway recognized the constraints on County action because of the potential impacts on private property, school property, and Crystal Lake Park. Mr. Greenway recommended a four-lane section from the Woods Memorial Bridge to Walmart.

Council Member Passiment discussed the meeting between the County and the School Board and the conclusion that the best option was to not act on realignment proposals.

Council Member Lawson, Jared Fralix, and Jennifer Bragg discussed the cost and public notification of Option Zero.

Committee Vice-Chair Glover discussed the growth of Lady's Island and asked staff to look into the parallel road near Walmart.

Council Member Sommerville and Jared Fralix discussed the impact of road widening on commercial businesses.

Council Member Howard voiced her support for Option Zero and commented on the verbal promises to Meridian Road residents.

Committee Chairman Rodman discussed potentially postponing the item to allow for input by people impacted by the Option Zero proposal.

Council Member McElynn and Jared Fralix discussed the negatives of Option Zero, including right-of-way relocations and potential damages to and relocations of commercial businesses and residences.

Committee Chairman Rodman opened the floor for public comment.

Tony Criscitiello

Joseph Allard

Chuck Newton (Sea Island Coalition)

Father Andrew Trapp (Saint Peter's Catholic Church)

Daniel Barryman

Committee Chairman Rodman closed public comment on this item.

County Administrator Greenway commented on the staff's need for direction on this issue.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to move forward with Option Zero and to keep the Council apprised of developments.

The Vote – The motion was approved without objection.

19. CHAIRMAN'S WRAP UP

Committee Chair Rodman had no wrap-up comments.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:29 PM.

Ratified: September 19, 2022