



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, June 19, 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/245291>

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 York Glover
Ex-Officio Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member Paula Brown
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Lawrence McElynn

ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Thomas Reitz

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 Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, seconded by Council Member Brown, to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Bartholomew, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik, to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objections.

6. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

No citizen comments.

County Administrator Greenway noted that on June 24, 2023, Beaufort County Government will hold an employee appreciation event at the Buckwalter Recreation Center.

7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY 2023

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/245291?ts=169>

CFO Hayes Williams briefed the Committee on a series of topics, including the FY 2023 revenues and expenditures, the plan to pay off the 2013A Bond, the Rural and Critical Lands Program's fund balance, the new chart of accounts, and the preparation for the FY 2023 audit.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and CFO Williams discussed the consolidation of line items in the new chart of accounts and the expected benefits for project accounting.

Council Member Howard and CFO Williams discussed using a different fund for part of the passive park expenditures.

8. RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,250,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE FRIPP ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF SUCH PUBLIC HEARING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/245291?ts=802>

Sarah Weathers, an associate of the Pope Flynn Group speaking on behalf of the Fripp Island Public Service District, briefed the Committee on the request for \$5,250,000 in general obligation bonds to address sudden needs like erosion infrastructure problems and fire improvements. Ms. Weathers provided a timeline for approving the request and noted the goal of issuing the bonds before the calendar year's end. Ms. Weathers added that the corresponding millage increase is still being determined, and the matter would be voted on in the district once the County Council approves it.

Council Member Bartholomew asked about the proposal for the aerial apparatus. Ms. Weathers clarified that a term for a fire truck with a specific ladder.

Committee Chairman Lawson introduced Edward Wetzel, Chairman of the Fripp Island Public Service District Commission.

Council Member Glover and Mr. Wetzel discussed the unanimous vote by the Commission to bring this matter forward to the County Council.

The Committee agreed to take items 8, 9, and 10 as a package.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Howard, to place all three items before the Council in order to issue bonds of up to \$5,250,000 for the stated purpose.

Council Member Glover asked about registered voters and the percentage of non-residential homeowners. Ms. Weathers confirmed that Fripp Island's registered voters would vote on this matter during the November general election. Mr. Wetzel added that there are approximately 800 voters, and less than fifty percent of the population are full-time residents.

The Vote - The motion to approve items 8, 9, and 10 was approved without objection.

9. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ORDERING BOND REFERENDA TO BE HELD IN THE FRIPP ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,250,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF FRIPP ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA IN THREE SEPARATE QUESTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE FORM OF THE BALLOTS TO BE USED; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF THE REFERENDA; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO**

Items 8, 9, and 10 were voted on as a package motion.

10. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FRIPP ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,250,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS SUBJECT TO VOTER APPROVAL, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF THE SAID FINDING AND AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

Items 8, 9, and 10 were voted on as a package motion.

11. **PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/245291?ts=1182>

Assistant County Administrator Atkinson discussed the 20-month effort to create a Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Mark Baker of Wood+Partners briefed the Committee on the Master Plan's planning process to assess existing programs and facility conditions, gather community input, and coordinate with staff on capital improvement recommendations.

Neelay Bhatt of Next Practice Partners discussed Beaufort County's demographics, population trends, and recreation participation trends for fitness, general sports, and outdoor activities.

The Committee and Mr. Bhutt discussed recreation trend measurements and how Beaufort County compares to other counties and the national average.

Mr. Baker commented on community engagement efforts, including public meetings throughout the County and coordination with staff.

Kyle Theodore of Wood+Partners provided further details on soliciting input through three specific questions on the strengths of the Parks and Recreation Department, the opportunities for improvement, and the priority areas for the report.

Mr. Bhatt discussed the process for administering a statistically valid public opinion survey, the 351 surveys completed, and the survey's findings.

Council Member McElynn asked why the questionnaire was not conducted over the Internet and instead mailed to people's houses. Mr. Bhatt replied that there was no way to limit an internet survey to the County's boundaries and that people were still allowed to take the survey if they were not randomly chosen for a mailed survey but that the results were separated from the statistically valid survey.

Ms. Theodore commented on the park and facility inventory and assessment process for 42 properties, including rating parks and facilities as good, fair, or poor. Ms. Theodore noted the challenges faced by

Beaufort County, including its geographically large size, variation in population densities, facility conditions, and underserved rural areas.

Committee Vice-Chair Tabernik and Ms. Theodore discussed how the good, fair, or poor ratings are determined and the inclusion of definitions in the final report.

Mr. Bhutt provided an overview of equity maps for a variety of park types to look for gaps or overlaps, the top priorities for facility and amenity investments, and the economic impact of sports tourism.

Mr. Baker discussed capital improvement and renovation recommendations to enhance recreation services and address priority areas, including the neighborhood parks for \$10,615,000, the community parks for \$37,917,974, the regional parks for \$38,030,089, and the special purpose sites for \$7,134,300. Mr. Baker also noted the community's high prioritization for creating aquatics and swimming facilities, ranges for guns and archery, indoor walking and jogging tracks, an outdoor amphitheater, senior centers, splash pads, etcetera.

Council Member Glover asked about the planned level of improvement for neighborhood parks. Mr. Baker replied that it depends on the level of use and the area's population.

The Committee and Mr. Baker discussed a splash pad's expense, maintenance, and possible location.

County Administrator Greenway commented that County Administration will bring forward recommendations on a funding plan to pay for improvements.

The Committee discussed the total funding request.

12. ARPA – GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM – YEMASSEE FUNDING REQUESTS

County Administrator Greenway commented that the funding request is for the second half of Yemassee's \$500,000 request.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, seconded by Council Member Bartholomew, to recommend approval of Yemassee's ARPA Good Neighbor Program funding request.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

13. AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Howard, to recommend approval of the appointment of Henry Criss to the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority Board for a three-year term with an expiration date of June 2026 and recommend approval to the Governor's Office the reappointment of Roosevelt McCollough to the Lady's Island/St. Helena Island Fire District Commission for a four-year term with an expiration date of June 2027.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 4:56 PM

Ratified: August 21, 2023