



**County Council of  
Beaufort County  
Community Services  
Committee Meeting**

**Chairman**  
MARK LAWSON

**Vice Chairman**  
CHRIS HERVOCHON

**Committee Members**  
GERALD DAWSON  
BRIAN FLEWELLING  
STU RODMAN

**Interim County Administrator**  
ERIC GREENWAY

**Clerk to Council**  
SARAH W. BROCK

**STAFF SUPPORT**  
RAYMOND WILLIAMS  
WHITNEY RICHLAND

**Administration Building**  
Beaufort County Government  
Robert Smalls Complex  
100 Ribaut Road

**Contact**  
Post Office Drawer 1228  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228  
(843) 255-2180  
[www.beaufortcountysc.gov](http://www.beaufortcountysc.gov)

## Finance Committee Minutes

**Monday, January 19, 2021 at 2:30 PM**

[This meeting is being held virtually in accordance with Beaufort County Resolution 2020-05]

**ALL OF OUR MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ONLINE AT [WWW.BEAUFORTCOUNTYSC.GOV](http://WWW.BEAUFORTCOUNTYSC.GOV) AND CAN ALSO BE VIEWED ON HARGRAY CHANNELS 9 AND 113, COMCAST CHANNEL 2, AND SPECTRUM CHANNEL 1304**

### CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

### PRESENT

Committee Chairman Lawson  
Committee Vice-Chairman Hervochoch  
Council Member Howard  
Council Member Dawson  
Council Member Rodman  
Council Member McElynn  
Council Member Passiment  
Council Member Sommerville  
Council Member Glover  
Council Member Flewelling

### ABSENT

Council Member Cunningham

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Lawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### FOIA

Committee Chairman Hervochoch noted that the Public Notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Sommerville to approve the agenda. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 8:0

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES- December 14, 2020

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Sommerville to approve the minutes from December 14, 2020. The Vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 8:0

## **Update from Chief Financial Officer, Whitney Richland Regarding Year to Date Financials**

Whitney Richland, Chief Financial Officer, introduce Pinky Harriott as the new Budget Director.

\*PLEASE SEE AGENDA FOR GRAPHS AND CHARTS\*

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Executive Summary of Revenues and Expenditures through December 2020 was presented.

Council Member Flewelling asked Mrs. Richland, based off her report, if the TAN will be necessary.

Mrs. Richland responded that the County relies on the collections from A-tax that are received at the first of the year and at a budgetary stand point she is not concerned but right now the County doesn't have the cash to pay the vendors based on those collections.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Discussion on Local Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax- Raymond Williams, Finance Director**

\*PLEASE SEE AGENDA FOR CHART\*

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Mr. Williams presented a recap of the 2020 awards for A-Tax and H-Tax. This is a discussion to close out the items and add items that didn't move forward back to fund balance.

Mr. Taylor suggested that this item move to County Council for the appropriation of the fund balance.

Council Member Glover spoke regarding the funds for Factory Creek Boat Ramp being refunded.

Mr. Williams stated that amount will be put back into the fund balance to use for other projects.

Recommendation to take \$77,000.00 and add it back it to the fund balance.

**Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member Glover to appropriate the remaining \$77,000.00 back to the fund balance by Resolution to be forwarded to Council. Vote: Unanimous without objection. 10:0.**

Council Member Flewelling asked how the receipt collection was going for payments.

Mr. Williams stated that they are being submitted and would provide an update at the next committee meeting.

### **Discussion/Update on the Current Tax Collections by the Beaufort County Treasurer, Maria Walls**

Mrs. Walls provided staff with an update regarding collections stating the bills were emailed and emailed. The prepayment program was very successful and the office has begun distributing funds. Collection rate is on par and expectation is the same as last year. Majority of the collection will come closer to the deadline which in March. 27,000 refunds have been processed in the past 7 days and the office is working in the order the payment was received.

Council Chairman Passiment asked if the Treasurer's office has seen an increase in the use of the app. Mrs. Walls responded yes and it has been the most efficient method.

Council Chairman Passiment asked if the installment program increased. Mrs. Wall's response was that there was 1,000 more installment program requests.

Council Member Glover asked what the tax collections are compared to last year percentage wise. Mrs. Wall's stated that we are behind due to the delayed billing and right now it's approximately 30% when last year it would have been 70% or 80%. Mrs. Richland, CFO stated that right now it at 28.5% now and last year it was 59.87%.

## **Update from Whitney Richland, Chief Financial Officer on the Tax Anticipation Note (Tan)**

Mrs. Richland stated that she has spoken with Tonya Crosby from the School District and their updated TAN is \$80 Million. Beaufort County has another reading before finalization and another week of collections so therefore that collection amount will affect the TAN so it may not be the full \$50 Million.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Accommodations Tax 2% Board Recommendations to Tourism- Related Organizations- Raymond Williams, Director of Finance.**

Mr. Williams updated staff regarding the A-Tax Board's recommendations to tourism related organizations.

\*PLEASE SEE AGENDA FOR GRAPHS AND CHARTS\*

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Council Member McElynn asked if the reconstruction Beaufort Project has been rectified. Mr. Williams stated that they did ask for money but they have since decided to go through the local H-Tax as opposed to the State A-Tax.

Council Member McElynn asked was the balance was for the Local A-Tax/H-Tax and what the request for that reconstruction project was. Mr. Williams stated it was \$3.6 Million and the request was \$700,000.00.

Council Member Howard asked regarding the project for Port Royal Church. \$240,000 was requested per Mr. Williams for the local A-Tax/H-Tax and was included \$700,000 request for the reconstruction project.

**Motion: It was moved by Council Member Rodman, seconded by Council Member Dawson to approve the distribution of the State ATAX funds in the amount of \$500,000.00as recommended by the Accommodations Tax (State 2%) Board and present to Council. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0.**

Council Member Glover objects to the Penn Center not being included and would like to amend the motion to add an additional \$20,000.00 to the total \$500,000.00.

**Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, seconded by Council Member Flewelling to amend the motion to include an additional \$20,000.00 for the Penn Center for a total amount of \$520,000.00 from the Accommodation Tax (2% State). Votes: Yea Council Member Glover, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Rodman. Nay: Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, Council Member Passiment, Committee Chairman Lawson, Committee Vice-Chairman Hervochon. Amended motion denied. 4/6.**

Council Member Hervochon stated that there was \$31,500.00 awarded last year to the Penn Center and feels that receipts of that money and how it was spent should be submitted before moving forward. Council Member Howard concurred.

Council Member Dawson asked that Penn Center submit the appropriate documents for the use of the requested \$20,000.00 and the expenditures from the last award of \$31,500.00 by next committee meeting.

**Status:** Forward to County Council

### **Ordinance for Refunding of Bonds, Whitney Richland, CFO**

Mrs. Richland explained that the purpose of this Ordinance is that these two bonds are eligible to be refinanced and they would like to take advantage of the interest variable and refinance. The proceeds for the 2021 Bond in the amount not to exceed \$13,500,000.00 and will be used to refund the 2011 Bonds and the 2012E Bonds. Staff discussed the

potential cost savings of the refund with Bond Counsel and the related savings with current market rate is approximately \$2 Million.

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the ordinance for refunding of bonds and forward to County Council. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0.

**Status:** Forward to Council.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Consideration of the appointment of Steven Green to Accommodations Tax (2% State) Board.**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the re-appointment of Steven Green to Accommodations Tax (2% State) Board. The Vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0.

**Status:** Forward to Council for approval.

### **Consideration of the reappointment for Ian Scott and Thomas Sheahan to the Airports Board.**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member Dawson to approve the reappointment of Ian Scott and Thomas Sheahan to the Airports Board Board. The Vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed. 10:0.

**Status:** Forward to Council for approval.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No Citizen Comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Ratified by Committee: February 16, 2021