



County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

This meeting was held in person at, Buckwalter Rec., 905 Buckwalter Pkwy, Bluffton, SC 29910, and virtually through Zoom.

Monday, April 25, 2022
6:00 PM

MINUTES

To hear Council's full discussion on a specific topic, or the complete meeting, watch the video stream available on the County's website. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/170600>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairman Joseph F. Passiment
Vice-Chairman D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member Logan Cunningham
Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Chris Hervochon
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Lawrence McElynn
Council Member Stu Rodman

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION - COUNCIL MEMBER HOWARD

Council Member Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

3. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, POSTED, AND DISTRIBUTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Chairman Passiment stated that this meeting has 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 Rodman, seconded by Council Member McElynn to approve the agenda.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 14, 2022

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member McElynn to approve the March 14, 2022 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/170600>

7. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION HONORING NOAH'S ARK RESCUE - COUNCIL MEMBER McELYNN

Council Member McElynn presented a proclamation to Noah's Ark Rescue.

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS - (ANYONE who wishes to speak during the Citizen Comment portion of the meeting will limit their comments to no longer than three (3) minutes (a total of 15 minutes) and will address Council in a respectful manner appropriate to the decorum of the meeting, refraining from the use of profane, abusive, or obscene language)

Louis Poindexter commented on capital projects from impact fees for the fire station.

Letter from Bluffton Township Fire District:

Dear Honorable Members of the Beaufort County Council,

This letter is sent on behalf of the Bluffton Township Fire District Board of Directors. Over the last five years, the Bluffton Township Fire District has responded to the rapid growth within our district with five major capital projects, all using substantial funds from our fire impact fees. Our fire station serving the Chechessee area was expanded and remodeled using \$1.2 million in impact fees. Two fire stations were built to replace temporary structures in areas of rapid expansion at Colleton River Plantation and Palmetto Bluff, using \$1.5 million in impact fees. Another fire station was relocated to the New Riverside area in response to changing demographics, using \$1.6 million in impact fees, with matching funding provided by Beaufort County EMS. Finally, a new station was added to the Hampton Parkway area using \$3.2 million in impact fees and another \$800,000 for the fire engine. This, in an area that was totally undeveloped 10 years ago. All told, impact fees contributed over \$8.3 million to capital projects these last 5 years, saving existing taxpayers the burden of paying for new infrastructure due to our areawide growth.

According to long-term projections and planning, BTFD estimates we will incur another \$9 million in capital expenses to pay for three new fire stations and associated equipment in the areas of the Oldfield community, within the community gates of Sun City, and near the intersection of Buckwalter and highway 46, with a major portion of funding coming from impact fees. If this Council elects to repeal the fire service impact fee, these costs will be borne by the citizens of the unincorporated Bluffton township. If impact fees are repealed, it is estimated we will need to raise millage rates by at least 2.5 mills to cover these costs. And we do not stand alone, these same scenarios will play out across the

county's unincorporated areas as development keeps coming to our area and burdens our coffers to keep up with their infrastructure demands.

We understand the dilemma posed by the inability to reach a consensus with the municipalities and towns on impact fees and fairness for all. But totally eliminating impact fees will only pass on the costs to existing citizens who will now be required to pay for this infrastructure for new developments, and give developers a free ride. And that's not a fair solution for the taxpayers. We urge you to keep existing fees in place while you continue to negotiate an equitable solution fair to all. After all, we didn't elect our leaders to just give up and toss out problematic issues because someone doesn't get their way. We elect you to hammer out the details, negotiate, and fix what's on the table.

Charles Perry commented on impact fees and the NAPA process.

Mike Garrigan commented on the .01 cent sales tax for 278 Corridor project.

Cindy Polsen commented on the support of the 278 Corridor project.

Steve Strohmeier commented on the support of the 1 bridge project for the 278 Corridor.

Letter from Steven Baer:

April 25, 2022

Honorable Members of Beaufort County Council:

The Route 278 Corridor problem before you is similar to Boeing's 737-Max problem. Are you being pushed into a bad design? Are you being fed incomplete information to rush you into making a poor decision?

To help understand this, please look at the map and comments in the figure below. It is correct that there are bridge problems and opportunities that need careful analysis. But the Corridor also contains several other parts that must also be included in a complete plan.

The public will judge the success or failure of this project while traveling between points A-D and A-E in each direction. That is where many believe the current plan is incomplete and will fail. Simulation analysis of options must be done between those points.

Citizens have warned of this problem for many years, but it has been ignored. As Citizens wrote to County Council (9/14/20, 8/11/21, and 10/8/21), we also believe that the direction you are receiving from some Council members is incomplete and biased. I also have concerns with some of the engineering opinions that were run by you far too rapidly at your 4/21/22 Workshop, without proper disclaimers or time for review. The net result is that we believe that County Council is being herded into doing insufficient Due Diligence on behalf of Citizens.

About 8000 people have signed a Petition expressing concern with the project. It is good that Senator Davis interceded to help us obtain the much-needed Independent Engineering Review that was derailed in 2020.

Those who worry that this will slow the project down should be aware that these and related issues were included in comments to FHWA/NEPA authorities earlier this year. If they do their expected job, these issues will cause questions later this year and delay the project anyway. As a result of having the Independent Review, we will now have the answers available when those questions come up. That could actually save time.

The Independent Review is our last chance to get a sound, scientifically based plan that addresses long lingering questions, identifies all the needed parts and costs, avoids mistakes, and possibly exposes new opportunities. We should all seize on this as a wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Baer Beaufort County Council, retired

9. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Alice Howard commented on the Stormwater Board, TCL Hampton Campus, and Beaufort Memorial Hospital Board meeting.

Council Member McElynn commented on the Community Services meeting for May.

Council Member Rodman commented on the 5k Race for the Airport Board and contract awards coming out of Public Facilities.

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10. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SESSION

No matters arising out of the Caucus Executive Session.

11. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items Originating from the Community Services and Public Safety Committee

1. RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE FINANCIAL BENEFICIARY OF THE BEAUFORT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT (ARW) FLYING FROG 5K RACE HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2022, TO THE ALTITUDE ACADEMY.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve to designate financial beneficiary of the Beaufort Executive Airport (ARW) Flying Frog 5K race held on October 22, 2022, to the Altitude Academy.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

2. APPROVAL TO AWARD C.E. BOURNE & CO., INC., THE CONTRACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT (FISCAL IMPACT: A PROPOSED A COST OF \$1,299,912.00)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the award to C.E. Bourne & Co., Inc., the contract for the Administration Building roof replacement.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

3. APPROVAL TO AWARD IFB #021122 DETENTION CENTER COOLER/FREEZER REPLACEMENT (\$229,840.00)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve to award IFB #021122 Detention Center cooler/freezer replacement.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

4. APPROVAL TO AWARD IBF# 013122 H.E. TRASK BOAT LANDING REPAIRS (\$288,609.00)

Motion: It was moved by Council Member McElynn, seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve to award IBF# 013122 H.E. Trask Boat Landing repairs.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

12. PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 82, ARTICLES II THROUGH VII OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, TO TERMINATE THE COLLECTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IMPACT FEES, ROAD FACILITIES IMPACT FEES—SOUTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY SERVICE AREA, ROAD FACILITIES IMPACT FEES—NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY SERVICE AREA, LIBRARY FACILITIES IMPACT FEES, FIRE FACILITIES IMPACT FEES AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Howard to approve the third reading of an Ordinance to repeal Chapter 82, Articles II through VII of the Code of Ordinances of Beaufort County, to terminate the collection of Parks and Recreation Facilities Impact Fees, Road Facilities Impact Fees- Northern Beaufort County service area, Library Facilities Impact Fees, Fire Facilities Impact Fees and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment

Carolyn Smith

Mike (last name not mentioned)

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Howard to postpone until June 13, 2022.

The Vote: The motion was approved 10/1

Voting Nay: Council Member Lawson

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13. PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE VIII OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, TO TERMINATE THE COLLECTION OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES, TO REFUND THE SCHOOL IMPACT FEES ALREADY PAID, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Flewelling to approve the third reading of an Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 82, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of Beaufort County, to terminate the collection of School Development Impact Fees, to refund the School Impact Fees already paid and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment

Mike McDonald

The Vote: The motion was approved 9/2

Voting Nay: Vice Chairman Sommerville and Council Member Howard

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14. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOCATE 2018 ONE CENT SALES TAX ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO THE SIDEWALKS AND MULTI-USE PATHWAYS PROGRAM (\$15,449,734.75).

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Flewelling, seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance to allocate 2018 One Cent Sales Tax additional revenue to the sidewalks and multi-use pathways program.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

15. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SOUTH CAROLINA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION FOR BEAUFORT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT EMERGENCY GENERATOR.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Hervochon, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling to approve a Resolution to accept grant funding available through the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission for Beaufort Executive Airport Emergency generator.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection

16. CITIZEN COMMENTS - (ANYONE who wishes to speak during the Citizen Comment portion of the meeting will limit their comments to no longer than three (3) minutes (a total of 15 minutes) and will address Council in a respectful manner appropriate to the decorum of the meeting, refraining from the use of profane, abusive, or obscene language)

Anna Marie Tabernik

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17. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:46 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council
Ratified: June 13, 2022