



## County Council Meeting Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, July 11, 2022  
6:00 PM

### MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Council's full discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902>

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Passiment called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

#### 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

Chairman Passiment led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Cunningham led the Invocation.

#### 3. FOIA

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

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=133>

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Lawson, to flip items 7 and 8 on the agenda.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion to Approve the Amended Agenda:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Lawson to approve the amended agenda.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to postpone item number 17 to the next Council Meeting on August 8th.

**Discussion:** Council Member Rodman discussed the potential purchase by Beaufort County of two landings, possible issues with the postponement of item number 17, and his recommendation for staff on how to address Melrose Landing.

Council Member Cunningham objected to the postponement of item number 17.

Council Member Hervochon and Chairman Passiment discussed the reasoning for the postponement.

**The Vote** – Voting Yea: Council Member Lawson, Council Member Glover, Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Flewelling, Vice Chairman Sommerville, and Chairman Passiment. Voting Nay: Council Member Rodman and Council Member Cunningham. The motion to postpone was approved 9:2.

**Main Motion:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Rodman, to approve the amended agenda, which flipped items 7 and 8 and removed item 17.

**Discussion:** Council Member Cunningham objected to the amended agenda.

**The Vote** – Voting Yea: Council Member Lawson, Council Member Rodman, Council Member Glover, Council Member Hervochon, Council Member Howard, Council Member McElynn, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Flewelling, Vice Chairman Sommerville, and Chairman Passiment. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham. The motion was approved 10:1.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member McElynn, Seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the minutes.

**The Vote** - The minutes are 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/176902?ts=757>

County Administrator Eric Greenway discussed the Daufuskie Island Ferry and the Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) Property Committee. Greenway introduced Kyle Jackson, Director of Risk Management and Safety, and Neil Desai, Director of Public Works.

## 7. PRESENTATION BY JIM NEAL OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION (APWA) ACCREDITATION

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=1233>

Jim Neal, Director of Engineering and Technology for APWA, presented the accreditation plaque to the Beaufort County Department of Public Works Director Neil Desai, Disaster Recovery Manager Pamela Cobb, Assistant County Administrator Jared Fralix, County Administrator Greenway, and Council Chairman Passiment.

## 8. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=1496>

Council Member Glover presented Queen Quet, Marquette Goodwine, with a Proclamation recognizing July 30th - August 6th, 2022, as Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week.

**9. PRESENTATION OF A POCKET PARK PROJECT BY ROLAND GARDNER AND LARRY ROWLAND**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=2020>

Marly Rusoff, Founding Director at the Pat Conroy Literary Center, presented on behalf of Rowland Gardner to advocate for a passive pocket park for an ancient live oak tree on the lot near Bladen and King Street.

Dr. Lawrence Roland, President of the Beaufort County Historical Society, shared a story and slideshow about the 29th Connecticut Infantry and asked that Beaufort County assist with the preservation of the live oak tree.

**10. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=2623>

Solicitor Duffy Stone introduced members of his staff and discussed the DUI pilot program.

Board President Bill Werkheiser, Melrose Cottage Owners Association, requested Council not to proceed with the condemnation process for the Melrose Landing dock.

Scott Smith discussed his opposition to the condemnation proceedings of the Melrose Landing dock.

Grant McClure, Coastal Conservation League, asked for consideration of a half penny for green space tax to expand on the Rural and Critical Lands program successes and balance out regional growth pressures.

Chuck Newton discussed the Lady's Island Plan, the 2018 30-million-dollar referendum for traffic improvements and delays in project completion, and possible voter reactions to the referendum process.

Mike Tomey discussed the need to resolve issues with access roads from Highway 21 and strongly consider the transportation referendum.

Laura Smith expressed her hope for continued conversations on Melrose Landing between Beaufort County and the developer.

**11. LIASION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee reports.

**12. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member Howard to approve the consent agenda.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

**13. PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT CONVEYANCE OF THE REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS TMS NO. R200 014 000 0139 0000 (WHITE HALL)**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute any and all documents necessary to accept conveyance of the real property identified as TMS No. R200 014 000 0139 0000 (White Hall).

Chairman Passiment opened the floor for public comment.

No one came forward.

Chairman Passiment closed public comment.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

**14. APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR IN AN EXISTING ORDINANCE**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Lawson, Seconded by Council Member Cunningham, to approve a resolution to correct a scrivener's error in an existing ordinance.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

**15. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A 2022 COUNTY GREEN SPACE SALES TAX REFERENDUM**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=4050>

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochon, to approve the second reading of an ordinance for a 2022 County Green Space Sales Tax Referendum.

**Discussion:** Council Member Cunningham voiced his approval of the green space referendum, opposition to the transportation referendum, and preferences for tax duration and penny percentage.

Council Member Hervochon voiced his support for the referendum, referencing the rural and critical lands program and his view that the referendum will act in part as a tax reduction strategy.

Council Member Lawson expressed his support for the referendum and the view of the referendum as a tax reduction.

Council Member Howard voiced her opposition to the referendum, highlighting implementation concerns, other tools at the County's disposal, and Charleston's success with greenbelt initiatives.

Council Member Glover expressed his support for the green space and transportation referendums.

Council Member Rodman stated his support for the green space and transportation referendums, preference for a full penny, and the need to determine the timeline of the sales tax.

Vice Chairman Sommerville discussed transportation infrastructure issues, uncertainty about funding for transportation projects, and a two-year, full penny green space referendum proposal.

Council Member Flewelling supported Vice Chairman Sommerville's two-year referendum suggestion.

Council Member Dawson commented on timing issues with the referendums.

Council Member McElynn voiced his support for the green space referendum and the opportunity for Beaufort County to serve as a model for other counties.

Chairman Passiment discussed his support for the green space referendum.

Tom Keaveny commented on ordinance requirements.

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Vice-Chairman Sommerville, Seconded by Council Member Flewelling, to amend the motion to reflect a two-year, full penny referendum, with a cap at 140 million and a bond up to 140 million.

Council Member Dawson left the Council meeting.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Glover, and Council Member Howard. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Hervochoon, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Rodman. The motion to amend failed 5:5.

**Motion to Amend:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon, to change the referendum from ten years to four years and from a half penny to a full penny, with a cap at 300 million and the option to bond.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Hervochoon, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Rodman. Voting Nay: Council Member Glover and Council Member Howard. The motion to amend passed 8:2.

**Motion to Extend Meeting:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoon, to extend the meeting beyond 8 PM.

**The Vote** - The motion was passed without objection.

**16. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A 2022 STREETS, ROADS, BRIDGES, AND GREENBELTS SALES TAX REFERENDUM**

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=7120>

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Council Member Glover, to approve the second reading of an ordinance for a 2022 Streets, Roads, Bridges, and Greenbelts Sales Tax Referendum.

**Discussion:** Council Member Howard, Council Member Glover, Council Member Lawson, and Vice Chairman Sommerville voiced their support for the transportation referendum.

Council Member McElynn advocated for the ordinance to move forward to allow the SC Secretary of Transportation and Legislative Delegation to determine the allocation of federal funding.

Council Member Flewelling stated his concerns about the referendum being premature.

Council Member Hervochoon, Council Member Rodman, and Council Member Cunningham voiced their opposition to the transportation referendum.

Chairman Passiment commented on duplication concerns, his belief that County citizens should not pay taxes for major roads that are the State's responsibility, and lessons learned from past referendums.

County Administrator Greenway discussed funding challenges.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, and Council Member McElynn. Voting Nay: Chairman Passiment, Council Member Cunningham, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Hervochoon, and Council Member Rodman. The motion failed 5:5.

Council Member Glover discussed the need for support, given his district's challenges.

**17. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE REAL PROPERTY WITH TMS NO. R800 021 000 006C 0000 AND R800 021 000 006B 0000 COLLECTIVELY COMMONLY KNOWN AS MELROSE LANDING. FISCAL IMPACT: Funds from use of General Fund – Fund balance account. Funding not to exceed \$800,000 plus closing costs and legal fees**

This item was postponed to the next Council meeting on August 8th.

18. **PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE REAL PROPERTY WITH TMS NO. R552 010 000 0648 0000 AND R552 010 000 0649 0000, LOCATED ON HELMSMAN WAY, HILTON HEAD ISLAND - FISCAL IMPACT: Funds from use of General Fund – Fund balance account. Funding not to exceed \$3,400,000 plus closing costs and legal fees**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Rodman, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the second reading of an ordinance to appropriate funds in order to establish public ownership of real property located on Helmsman Way, Hilton Head Island.

**Discussion:** Council Member Hervochoch and Council Member Cunningham objected to the motion.

**The Vote** - Voting Yea: Chairman Passiment, Vice Chairman Sommerville, Council Member Flewelling, Council Member Glover, Council Member Howard, Council Member Lawson, Council Member McElynn, and Council Member Rodman. Voting Nay: Council Member Cunningham and Council Member Hervochoch. The motion passed 8:2.

19. **APPROVAL OF UPDATED 2022 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Motion:** It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, Seconded by Council Member Hervochoch, to approve the updated 2022 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule.

**The Vote** - The motion was approved without objection.

20. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Please watch the video stream available on the County's website to view the public comments.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/176902?ts=8186>

Leanne Coulter expressed her support for Beaufort County acquiring the Melrose Landing Dock.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 8:33 PM.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Passiment, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council  
Ratified: August 8, 2022