



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

Chairman
LAWRENCE MCELYNN

Vice Chairman
LOGAN CUNNINGHAM

Committee Members
GERALD DAWSON
YORK GLOVER
ALICE HOWARD

Interim County Administrator
ERIC GREENWAY

Clerk to Council
SARAH W. BROCK

STAFF SUPPORT
CHARLES ATKINSON
PHIL FOOT

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Beaufort County Government
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Community Services Committee Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 2:00 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 AND CAN ALSO BE VIEWED ON HARGRAY CHANNELS 9 AND 114, COMCAST CHANNEL 2, AND SPECTRUM CHANNEL 1304

PRESENT

Committee Chairman McElynn
Council Member Dawson
Council Member Glover
Council Member Howard
Council Member Passiment
Council Member Cunningham
Council Member Sommerville

ABSENT

Council Member Hervochoon
Council Member Rodman
Council Member Lawson
Council Member Flewelling

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman McElynn called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman McElynn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

FOIA

Committee Chairman McElynn 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 Howard, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the agenda. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from December 7, 2020

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Dawson, seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the minutes from December 7, 2020. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

Animal Services Update 2020- Tallulah McGee, Director of Animal Services

Ms. Grice presented the Beaufort County Animal Services 2020 Report.

To watch Power Point Presentation

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/112327>

Committee Chairman McElynn asked if the bites that were occurring were from animals that were on leashes or unleashed. Deputy County Attorney, Brittany Ward, responded that due to more animal owners being home throughout the day, due to COVID and the dogs getting out.

Committee Chairman McElynn also asked if these cases were proceeding to Magistrates Court and deemed dangerous. Brittany Ward stated yes.

Committee Chairman McElynn also questioned the disease prevention service partnership with Beaufort County Sheriff's Department, if any more assistance is needed. Ms. McGee mentioned that this is the first partnership of its kind in the state and it does require a quite a bit of money and hopes that Department of Health and Environmental Control is heading up the funding.

Council Member Glover asked if there was any other method, besides a Vet, that helps with heartworm prevention. Ms. McGee stated that mosquito control is very important and there is a mobile unit that is willing to go out and test animals and give them an alternate route for treatment.

Ms. McGee also mentioned that there is private money that has been donated that helps with fencing to prevent bites and also used for treatment of heartworms etc.

Council Member Cunningham asked about aerial mosquito spraying. Mr. Foot stated that mosquito was moved over to Public Works but can state that there is a plan but unfortunately that department has been without a Pilot for some time.

14th Circuit Court Public Defender's Office Update- Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Chief Public Defender

Mrs. Smart-Gittings presented an update on how the Public Defender's office has been doing this past year and the funding that has been provided. Mrs. Smart-Gittings stated that their office has hired a Sentencing Specialist, a Mitigation Attorney, and an Admin. Investigator and that specific department now has 11 Cases; 5 murder, 2 drug trafficking, 2 child abuse, and breaking and entering.

There were 2 Attorney's hired for Bond Hearings and the Public Defender's office has seen an increase by 44% in the cases, by being hired on the spot instead of having defendant's to go to the Clerk's office. These 2 Attorneys have been able to decrease the detainment number, pre-trial. 2 General Session Attorney's and 2 Violent Crime Attorneys have been hired. Evidence.com was purchased and an administrative assistant was hired to handle the discovery workflow in the office. After all the funds that were received only \$100,000.00 has not been spent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A Discussion Concerning Beaufort County's Community Development Priority List- Chuck Atkinson, ACA Community Services

Discussion: Mr. Atkinson stated that the Beaufort County Community Development priority list is updated annually and is provided to the Lowcountry Council of Governments as a pre-requisite for Community Development Block Grant Program Applications. The SC CDBG Program is designed to provide assistance to units of local government in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income (LMI). The Annual allocation from HUD for the program is administered by the SC Department of Commerce- Division of Grant Administration.

Beaufort County Priority Community Development Needs- Draft

- 1) Provide new and /or quantifiably public services and materials that will primarily benefit low and moderate-income (LMI) individuals and are needed to prepare for, respond to or prevent the spread of coronavirus.
 - a. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - b. Lease of a facility, equipment and other property needed for a public service
 - c. COVID-19 testing supplies and contact tracking software
 - d. Food pantries
 - e. Food distribution and delivery for elderly or other primarily LMI residents
 - f. After school education assistance programs
 - g. Senior services
 - h. Alterations or retrofitting of publicly owned facilities to facilitate compliance with public health guidelines
- 2) Drainage improvements in low-and-moderate income neighborhoods as identified in our capital improvement plan
- 3) Funding for public facilities, transportation, and services; other activities that strengthen existing quality of life
- 4) Housing programs- water and sewer hookups to replace failing septic systems and wells in low-and moderate income communities and/or neighborhoods; housing repair for low-and-moderate income homeowners and for rental units occupied by low-and-moderate income renters; programs to promote new affordable rental housing; programs and policies to promote homeownership for low-and-moderate income households; and incentives to promote affordable infill housing.

Mr. Atkinson stated that this is a list of priorities for Council to review and finalize a list to send to LCOG by March 1st. Staff recommends this item be in a form of a Resolution.

Council Member Howard asked if number 1 had separate funding since it is centered on COVID. Mr. Atkinson stated that this is a new pool of money for CDBG and LCOG requested that it be on the list for when the funds become available.

Interim County Administrator, Mr. Greenway stated that staff will confirm with LCOG.

Council Member Glover asked about street scape in which Mr. Fralix answered that a street scape is to facilitate pedestrian access and safety from one place to another.

No action needed. Will be discussed further at the Council Retreat

ACTION ITEMS

Request for Authorization to Proceed with Pre-Purchase Due Diligence for the Proposed New Riverside Library Site, Chuck Atkinson, ACA Community Services

This project has been in the current Beaufort County Strategic Plan/CIP since 2010. This project is necessary to serve the extensive growth in this area of Beaufort County and will serve over 30,000 residents who currently only have access to limited library services. The proposed 15,000 sq. ft. branch library will be located in the New Riverside Development, which will serve the Pritchardville/greater Bluffton area. Site proposed is at the intersection of S.C. 170 and S.C. 46 at New Riverside Village, Lot F, and Portion of R610-036-000-1258-0000.

Mr. Atkinson stated that Staff is requesting authorization to conduct pre-purchase due diligence activities for the proposed New Riverside Library site, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. (Survey, appraisal, and phase I environmental site assessment) Funding source will be the Bluffton Library Impact Fee Account.

Committee Chairman McElynn asked how much money was in the impact fee account. Mr. Atkinson stated that it was roughly \$3.2 million.

Council Member Cunningham asked for an amount of the cost per acre and what it should be going for versus what the county is paying and a list of uses for the Library.

Council Member Passiment asked if the design of the library be done before the assessment of the land. Mr. Atkinson stated that it can be done concurrent.

Council Member Logan asked if the County will be owning the property and the building. Mr. Atkinson stated that it was more viable to own both property and the building.

Motion: It was moved my Council Member Howard, seconded by Council Member Cunningham to approve the request for authorization to proceed with pre-purchase due diligence in the amount of \$30,000 for the proposed New Riverside Library Site. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Consideration of appointment for Dr. Demetrajane Kokinakis (1st Term) To Beaufort Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees Replacing Faith Polkey

Consideration for approval of Ed Olsen (3rd term) and Paul Hamilton (2nd term) to Bluffton Township Fire District Board

Consideration of Reappointment for Linda Neidich Hoffman (5th term) to Alcohol and Drug Abuse Board

Motion: It was moved my Council Member Cunningham, seconded by Council Member Sommerville to approve the following Reappointments/Appointments to the Boards and Commissions: Dr. Demetrajane Kokinakis to the Beaufort Memorial Board of Trustees; Ed Olsen and Paul Hamilton to the Bluffton Township Fire District Board; Linda Neidich Hoffman to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Board. The vote: Unanimous without objection. The motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Ratified by Committee: March 1, 2021