



Executive Committee Beaufort County, SC

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

Monday, August 15, 2022
1:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the Committee's full discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/178856>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Sommerville called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

PRESENT

Committee Chairman D. Paul Sommerville
Council Member Joseph F. Passiment
Council Member York Glover
Council Member Stu Rodman
Council Member Alice Howard
Council Member Lawrence McElynn

ABSENT

Council Member Gerald Dawson
Council Member Brian Flewelling
Council Member Chris Hervocho
Council Member Mark Lawson
Council Member Logan Cunningham

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Chairman Sommerville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FOIA

Committee Chairman Sommerville noted that the 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 to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, Seconded by Council Member Rodman, to add an agenda item number 8, which would be a recommendation to the County Council to amend Section 2-28 of Ordinance 2020/27, which is setting the salaries of County Council for the upcoming year.

The Vote - The motion to amend was approved without objection.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to approve the agenda as amended.

The Vote - The motion to approve the agenda as amended was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the minutes from May 2, 2022.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

7. DISCUSSION OF AN ORDINANCE THAT ACCEPTS THE TRANSFER OF THE CONDUCT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FROM THE CITY OF BEAUFORT TO THE BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY.

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/178856?ts=248>

Committee Chairman Sommerville summarized how municipal elections are conducted in Beaufort County and the City of Beaufort's plan to divest itself of the responsibility to certify elections.

Mayor Stephen Murray discussed the City of Beaufort's previous deferral of election administration duties to Beaufort County's Board of Voter Registration and Elections and the benefits of ending the duplicative certification process for elections.

Committee Chairman Sommerville discussed the Town of Hilton Head Island's divestment from the responsibility of conducting and certifying elections and the efforts to pass a state statute to divest election responsibilities from municipalities.

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to approve the discussion of an ordinance that accepts the transfer of the conduct of municipal elections from the City of Beaufort to the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County.

Discussion: Council Member McElynn and Mayor Murray discussed the maintenance and cost of election voting equipment and the support provided by Beaufort City Council and the County's Board of Voter Registration and Elections for the transfer of election certification responsibilities.

The Vote - The motion was approved without objection.

8. DISCUSSION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNTY COUNCIL TO AMEND SECTION 2-28 OF ORDINANCE 2020/27, WHICH SETS THE SALARIES OF COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

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

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/178856?ts=927>

Motion: It was moved by Council Member Passiment, Seconded by Council Member McElynn, to authorize the Executive Committee to forward to County Council for the first reading of an ordinance to set the salaries for the County Council based upon amending Section 2-28 of Beaufort County's current ordinance.

Discussion: County Administrator Greenway discussed a possible amendment to the motion to review the salaries of all elected officials.

Motion to Amend: It was moved by Council Member Glover, Seconded by Council Member Howard, to amend the previous motion to include all constitutional officers in the salary review.

The Vote – The motion to amend was approved without objection.

Discussion: Council Member Passiment discussed the need for two separate ordinances, as elected officials are treated somewhat differently than Council members.

Council Members McElynn and Passiment discussed whether an adjustment to the base salary or clarification of the previous ordinance would be the best course of action.

The Vote – The motion as amended was approved without objection.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

Ratified: October 10, 2022