



City Council Regular Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

March 9, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:11PM

Mayor, Stephen D, Murray III

All of Council members in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell and Mayor Murray.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Phil Cromer

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Proclamation proclaiming March 2021 as Red Cross Month

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Approval was unanimous.

B. Proclamation proclaiming March 2021 as Disabilities Awareness Month

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, reported that the City of Beaufort received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Mrs. Todd commended Alan Eisenman from the Finance Department for his outstanding work.

Email from Mr. George Trask regarding Downtown concerns is attached.

V. MINUTES

- A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - November 10, 2020
- B. Worksession - November 17, 2020
- C. Worksession and Regular Meeting - November 24, 2020
- D. Worksession and Regular Meeting - January 26, 2021
- E. Worksession and Regular Meeting - February 9, 2021
- F. Worksession and Regular Meeting - February 23, 2021

Motion to approve was made by Councilman McFee and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance amendment of Part 5, Chapter 4, of the City Code of Ordinances, Sections 5-4001 through 5-4051, Flood Damage Prevention, to comport with the SC Department of Natural Resources model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in order to meet the National Flood Insurance program's updated requirements - 2nd Reading.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman McFee, and seconded by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer.

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, gave a recap of the Ordinance with minor changes that were made since last reading.

A letter sent to City Council from Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League Director, has been attached.

Approval was unanimous.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for waiver of Open Container for Alcohol for private wedding reception at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park on Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Approval was unanimous.

- B. Request for waiver of Open Container for Alcohol for private wedding rehearsal dinner at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer, and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Approval was unanimous.

- C. Request from Open Land Trust for Street Closure, waiver of Open Container for Alcohol and Noise Ordinance for Brunch on the Bluff Event on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer, and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, gave an overview of the event stating that they are requesting that Bay Street be closed from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm between Glebe Street and Hamar Street. They are also requesting a waiver of the Noise Ordinance. There will be Police presence at the event.

Ashley Rhodes, Board Member from the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, stated that this event is in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization. They are limiting the number of tickets being sold to 250 and will follow all safety guidelines.

Mayor Murray stated that there are not many residences in that area but wants to make sure that notification is given in advance about the street closure.

Approval was unanimous.

D. Authorization to allow City Manager to enter into Contract for Waterfront Park Swings

Motion to approve was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer, and seconded by Councilman McFee.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave an overview of the grant process to restore the existing swings at the Waterfront Park for \$26,000. Clinton Contracting, LLC., will be performing the work.

Approval was unanimous.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

The City Manager recognized Traci Guldner for being promoted to City Clerk after being with the Fire Department for 18 years. Ivette Burgess had been serving in a dual role, City Clerk/Human Resources Director for many years, and this will allow her to focus solely on Human Resources. Tara Hodges, from Downtown Operations, replaced Ms. Guldner at the Fire Department. He wished everyone well in their new roles.

Mr. Prokop reported that the Washington Street Park has now re-opened. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on Friday, March 5th, was very well attended. He thanked all who were involved.

The Southside Park Survey is up on the City's Website, and there have already been over 450 replies. There are 3 more weeks for those that wish to participate and are encouraged to do so.

The Mossy Oaks Stormwater Project is approaching its end. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held sometime during the last two weeks of April. The last section of the Spanish Moss Trail is being finished up and should be re-opened by the end of the week. No mayor issues have been reported to date.

The City Council Retreat has been set for March 22nd and 23rd at the Sea Island Best Western starting at 9am. This will be live streamed on Social Media and is open to the Public.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor started off by congratulating Ms. Guldner on her promotion to City Clerk and thanked Ms. Burgess for all her hard work during her tenure as Clerk.

Mayor Murray congratulated all those involved with the restoration of the Washington Street Park. He was excited to see everyone there, especially those that grew up playing in that park.

Congratulations were also given to Paul and Heidi Ricard on the grand opening of their new business on Bay Street, The Spice and Tea Exchange of Beaufort.

The Mayor spoke with Lisa Allen, who is on the Citizens Police and Accountability Task Force, and stated great strides have been made on the releasing of data, such as citations, that had been requested and thanked Dale McDorman, Police Chief, and Kathleen Williams, Communications and Marketing Director, for their efforts. You can find this information by going to the Police Department page on the City's website and clicking on the Data and Transparency Link.

He stated that he would like to see more responses on the Southside Park Survey and hopes to see it go over 1,000 responses.

The Mayor reported that there will be no Worksession or Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd. He stated there will be a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 30th, beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Mayor acknowledged the receipt of several emails from citizens concerning development projects along Port Republic Street, and stated that the Council also has concerns, but there are legal processes that must be followed. He encouraged residents to participate in the Historic District Review Board Meetings, as these are live streamed and provide time for Public comment. The Mayor stated they can not speak publicly on these issues while they are in the review process by the Board, but that efforts are made to be very transparent.

Councilman Lipsitz

Thanked Kathleen Williams, Communications and Marketing Director and Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director for their work on getting the Southside Park Survey together. He stated that he will be passing out surveys in the Park and talking to the Public.

Councilman Mitchell

Nothing to report.

Councilman McFee

Thanked the Community for their support in the Special Election and is looking forward to serving the Public.

Mayor Pro Tem, Cromer

Nothing to report.

IX. ADJOURN

8:08PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Interim Mayor Pro Tem, Phil Cromer and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All in favor.

Disclaimer: All City Council Worksession and Regular Meeting minutes are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbeaufort.org (Agenda section). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.

From: George Trask <ggtrask@fastmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:59 PM

To: Julie Bachety <jbachety@cityofbeaufort.org>; Ivette Burgess <iburgess@cityofbeaufort.org>;

Stephen Murray <smurray@cityofbeaufort.org>

Cc: Tony & Christine Kameen <ajkameen@gmail.com>; Douglas Storrs <douglas@cornishlp.com>; Bob &

Jan Clouse <jclouse@carolinalanterns.com>; Catherine Ceips Scarborough <1207ccs@gmail.com>;

Chuck & Gloria Dalvini <cgdalvini@gmail.com>; Diane & Geri Kenny <kennysrock@aol.com>; George

Trask <ggtrask@yahoo.com>; Lyn McNeil <lynmcneil@live.com>; Marjorie Trask

<marjorietrask@me.com>; Mary Helen Niemeyer <mhniemeyer@gmail.com>; Pam & Drew Scallan

<pbs3018@gmail.com>; Westley Byrne <wapwb1@gmail.com>; Paul Trask Jr <ptrask@hargray.com>;

Graham Trask <grahamtrask@gmail.com>; Cynthia Jenkins <ccjenkins111@gmail.com>; Wallace

Scarborough <wbs224488@gmail.com>

Subject: Downtown concerns

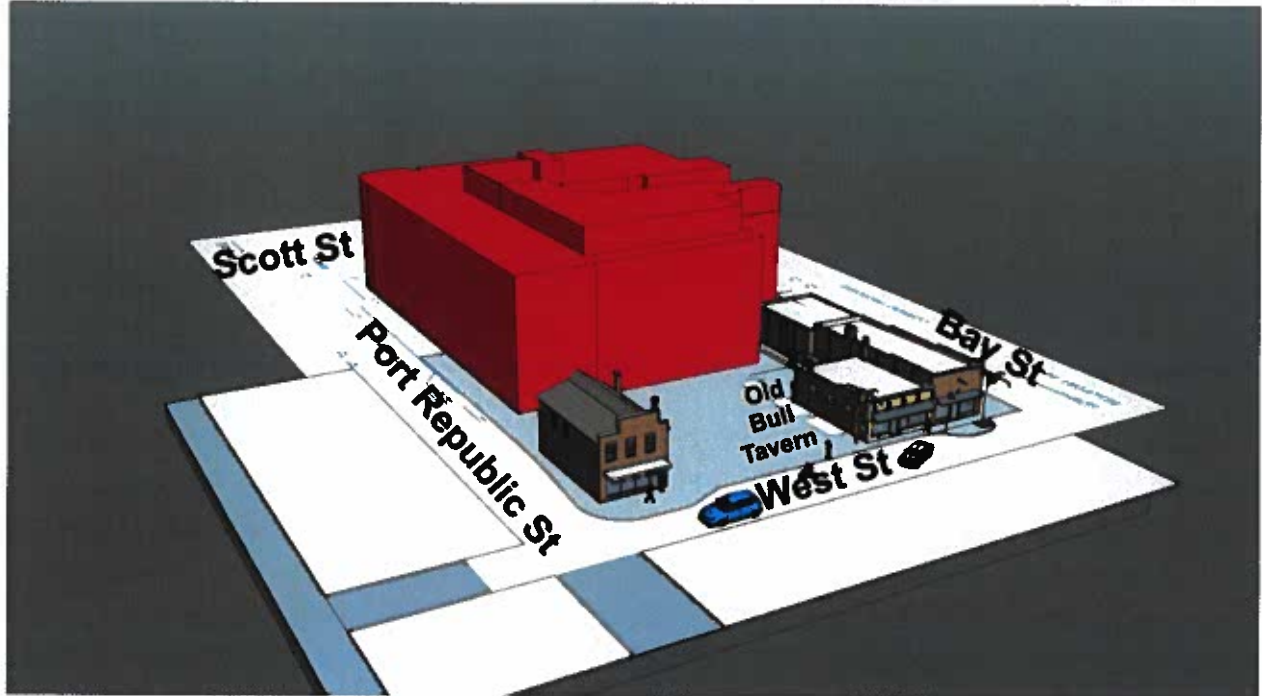
CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Chairman Dickerson, Members of the Historic District Review Board, and Mayor Steve Murray,

Important local public policy issues affecting Beaufort's Historic District

1. Proposed massive downtown hotel, apartment building, and parking garage on Port Republic Street in downtown Historic District
2. Proposed Sheriff's Department move to Bay Street location in residential Historic District (old courthouse at corner of Bay and Bladen Streets) including parking lot on North Street to accommodate deputy sheriff's cars
3. Current massive cutting of oak trees in Historic District by Dominion Power, opportunity to get funds to bury the cables
4. Proposed widening of Sea Island Parkway on Lady's Island immediately across Woods Memorial Bridge, which will bring even more through traffic into the downtown Historic District via Bay and Carteret Streets
5. Proposed County anti-fill proposal, which will prevent shoring up of land against predicted sea-level rise
6. City currently allows demolition permits without expiration date or requirement to get approval for replacement plans.
7. Proposed updating of Milner Report of guidelines for review of impact of proposed developments on the Historic District
8. Need for a moratorium on development until new Milner Report is produced, accepted, and implemented by the City with new ordinances to correct existing deficiencies

Here is the mass of the hotel at same scale as nearby existing buildings in the same city block. Further perspectives are being created to show impact on the Verdier House, Bay Street stores, and downtown skyline including obstruction of views of church steeples when approaching downtown from Woods Bridge.



I hereby request that this email including the above scale-model rendering be presented to all members of City Council as soon as possible and placed in the minutes of the next meeting of City Council and of the Historic District Review Board.

George Graham Trask
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Beaufort SC 29902 USA
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ggtrask@yahoo.com



March 9, 2021

Beaufort City Council
1911 Boundary Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

Dear Beaufort City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League regarding Agenda Item VI.A, amendment to the City's Flood Damage Prevention ordinance in compliance with the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program's updated requirements.

We applaud the City for retaining important protections for the safety and well-being of people and property within our natural Lowcountry landscape. While FEMA's base flood elevation will be lowered under the new maps, the City is wisely retaining the 13-foot design elevation requirement from its current ordinance and incorporating that standard into the proposed updated ordinance.

We further commend the City for incorporating the Lady's Island Plan recommendation for fill limitations into its updated ordinance. These are important and proactive steps toward enhancing community resilience in a changing environment that is experiencing both increases in growth and development alongside increases in flooding, storm events, and rising sea levels.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the long-term health and vibrancy of our community.

Respectfully,

Jessie A. White

SOUTH COAST OFFICE DIRECTOR
843.522.1800 | jessiew@scccl.org