



City Council Regular Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

July 13, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:05PM**

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**

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Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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No public comment.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

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Michelle Knight with the Lowcountry Council of Governments reported that in June 2008, the City of Beaufort was awarded \$1,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help upgrade the Mossy Oaks drainage system. The city also contributed \$1,218,405.12 for a total project cost of \$2,218,405.12. She reported that construction on the project has been completed.

No public comment.

**V. MINUTES**

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A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - June 22, 2021

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Cromer and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Minutes approved as presented.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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A. Street closure request from Grounded Running for the Helping Heroes 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, November 13, 2021

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

Benjamin Whitmore gave an overview of the event. This event is a fund raiser for the Gary Sinise Foundation and hopes to make this an annual event.

Approval was unanimous.

- B. Street closure request from Child Evangelism Fellowship to host a 5K Run/Walk event on Saturday, January 22, 2022

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

Saul Garcia spoke about the mission of Child Evangelism Fellowship of the Lowcountry and gave an overview of the fund-raising event.

Approval was unanimous.

- C. Permission to host the 2021 Beaufort Shrimp Festival in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, October 1 - 2, 2021, host the Run Forrest Run 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and request waivers for the sale of alcohol, open container, noise ordinances, street closures, and permission for parking passes

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Cromer.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, gave an overview of the event and the waivers being requested.

Approval was unanimous.

- D. Authorization to allow City Manager to enter into a Lease Agreement with Oliver's Clean Burn, LLC for Lot 17 in the Commerce Park

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

Bill Prokop, City Manager stated that this agreement is no different from the previous Lease Agreement, except that this lease will be for Lot 17. The agreement is for 5 years and started on July 1, 2021.

Approval was unanimous.

- E. Authorization to allow City Manager to enter into an Easement Agreement for property located at 260 Sea Island Parkway - Airport Frontage Road and to authorize the release of committed fund balance of \$95,000

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

Bill Prokop, City Manager, gave information on why and how this agreement came about and Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated that the funds would be coming from the committed funds for land acquisitions.

Approval was unanimous.

## **VII. REPORTS**

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### **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Prokop apologized to the citizens about the delay and confusion in trash services while the changeover was taking place. He thanked the Fire and Public Works Departments for removing trash bins from the streets and taking them to a central location. Linda Roper and staff were thanked for addressing the issues as they arose.

He mentioned that there was a great turnout for First Friday on July 2<sup>nd</sup> even with the rain, and that the merchants were happy.

Stated that the Mossy Oaks Stormwater Project was successful in doing its job during Tropical Storm Elsa.

The City's Emergency Operations Team is ready for hurricane season, and he urged residents to be prepared as well.

Reminded everyone that the Live @ 5 event will be downtown this Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please do not forget about the Water Festival taking place. The event will run July 16 - 25, 2021.

Recognized 2 high school summer interns. Marisa Blankenship in Finance, and Timothy Brown in Community Development. Both are doing a great job.

This Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the City Police Department will be out at Southside Park starting at 12pm to host a Chill with a Cop event. Bring your kids out and play some badminton and corn hole. There will be other fun activities as well.

The American Rescue Plan money is still on hold, as the State Administration has not yet requested the funds. The city has been in contact with our State Delegation, and it looks like we will be waiting several more months.

Wished everyone a great summer during the City Council summer break. Meetings will resume on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

### **Mayor's Report**

Stated that he had also talked with local and state contacts regarding the American Rescue Plan money, and that nothing will be done until they come back into session, which will be sometime in the Fall.

Urged all residents and businesses to be prepared during this hurricane season. Was very pleased to see all departments and agencies working together after Tropical Storm Elsa. They did a great job communicating and took swift action accordingly.

Thanked Representative Shannon Erickson and Senator Tom Davis for their sponsorship of \$450,000 that will be dedicated to the Cyber Security Initiative that was granted by the General Assembly.

Appreciated the Great Grand Family Foundation that hosted a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event in the Washington Street Park. Thanked them for bringing the Community together.

A Strategic Planning meeting took place today with the Beaufort Digital Corridor. A new Board Chairperson was announced, Dr. Melissa Venable. Matt D'Angelo will continue as Vice Chairperson.

There will be a Virtual Tech Connect session this Thursday evening, July 15, 2021. Details can be found on the Beaufort Digital Corridor's website.

Wished Karoline Kennedy from the City Manager and Human Resources Department all the best and thanked her for her assistance as she transfers out of the area.

### **Councilman Mitchell**

Announced that the Charles Lind Brown Community Center survey will be released to the public in the next few days.

### **Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

Nothing to report.

### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Stated he attended the event at the Washington Street Park on July 4<sup>th</sup> that was hosted by the Great Grand Family Foundation. Was a very nice event.

### **Councilman Cromer**

Stated he will be attending an upcoming meeting with Darrin Gross with the Coastal Community Foundation, regarding the Affordable Housing Initiative along with Mayor Murray and Bill Prokop, City Manager on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Reported that the Annual Meeting for the Municipal Association of South Carolina will be held next week in Hilton Head.

The Beaufort History Museum is looking for docents and greeters for the upcoming season. Classes will be held July 28 - 30, 2021, from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm at the Beaufort CVB conference room. Lunch will be provided. You can go to the Museum's website [beauforthistorymuseum.wildapricot.org/docent-education](http://beauforthistorymuseum.wildapricot.org/docent-education) for more information.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**7:52PM**

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

All in favor.

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Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://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](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).