



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

August 24, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:11PM**

Stephen D. Murray III, Mayor

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

**III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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A. Swearing in of the new Fire Chief, Tim Ogden.

The new Fire Chief, Tim Ogden, was sworn in by Mayor Murray.

B. Proclamation proclaiming August 19 - 26, 2021, as USCB Sand Shark Week.

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

Approval was unanimous.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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No public comment

**V. MINUTES**

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A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - July 13, 2021

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

Minutes approved as presented.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

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A. Ordinance consenting to the inclusion of certain property in a Joint County Industrial Park within the City of Beaufort; approving certain Intergovernmental Agreements by and between the City and Beaufort County - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

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

Approval was unanimous.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

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- A. Request from Beaufort County Veterans Affairs to host a Veteran's Day Parade and street closures on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- B. Request from St. Peter's Catholic Church to host the annual tour of homes, and public assembly for the weekend of November 19 - 20, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- C. Request from The Exchange Club of Beaufort to host annual Ghost Tours every weekend in October, permission to use the marina, and permission for complimentary parking passes.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- D. Request from the Downtown Art Galleries to host an Art Walk, permission to serve alcohol, permission to waive the open container and public drinking ordinances on Friday, October 22, 2021.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- E. Permission to host the 9/11 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Request for use of the park and complimentary parking passes.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- F. Permission to host the annual Halloween Celebration in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park on Saturday, October 30, 2021. Request for use of the park and complimentary parking passes.

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

Approval was unanimous.

- G. Request for City Manager to enter into a contract with Beaufort County Magistrate Court for administrative services in Bond Court.

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

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, stated that this is a contract with the Beaufort County Magistrate to provide the Municipalities' administrative services for Bond Court. This will only be implemented if all the parties agree. In addition to the city, the agreement includes the Town of Bluffton, and the Town of Port Royal. The cost for services to the city would be \$17,629.00. The services would start on October 1, 2021.

Approval was unanimous.

- H. Resolution for the application of a MASC Grant for the South Coast Cyber Center.

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

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that this is before council to apply for a Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Hometown Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. The city would be required to do a 15 percent local match in the amount of \$3,750.00. Funds would be utilized for the South Coast Cyber Center project.

Approval was unanimous.

I. Resolution on authorized signers for the ARPA (American Relief Plan Act) account.

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

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, stated that they needed to re-evaluate the signers on checks, and other banking account documents for the city that includes the ARPA account. The change being made will remove Ivette Burgess, and add Reece Bertholf, Deputy City Manager.

Approval was unanimous.

J. Reappointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

Reappointment of Kathryn Mixson to the Cultural District Advisory Board, as Beaufort History Museum's representative for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Reappointment of Lise Sundrla to the Cultural District Advisory Board, as Historic Beaufort Foundation's representative to a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Approval was unanimous.

## VIII. REPORTS

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### City Manager's Report

Emphasized the importance of citizens getting vaccinated. The city is working closely with Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to ensure that vaccines are available.

First Friday downtown will be held on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no street closure for this event.

Reported that the recent stormwater improvements that were made have been working very well. The next stormwater project is in the planning stages and information will be sent out once permits are granted and plans are finalized.

There has been a steady flow of new businesses opening up in the city. Included in this were 6 ribbon cuttings, and 1 groundbreaking at the Commerce Park. There have been several new commercial developments approved for construction as well as residential.

Congratulated Tim Ogden on his recent promotion to Fire Chief and is pleased to have him take over the reins from Chief Reece Bertholf who has been promoted to Deputy City Manager.

Reminded the public about the Comprehensive Plan outline and stated there is still time for everyone to comment on the document. There is a link on the City's web page to follow. <https://bit.ly/3s3E7Tc>

Invited everyone to the Watermelon Crawl Sip and Stroll event that is being held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, downtown. There will also be a 9/11 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on Saturday, September 11, 2021, starting at 7:00 p.m., at the waterfront park.

Thanked Kathy Todd, Finance Director, and her staff for the updates to the Business License Ordinance. This update will meet all the requirements mandated by State Law.

Lastly, he reported that the Governor, nor the State Legislature, have requested the funds from the American Recovery Plan. He reported that the state received their money, the counties have all received theirs, along with the 14 largest cities in the state. They have failed to ask for funds for municipalities that have a population of 50,000 or less. We have lost 6 months of interest on those funds and the same amount of time to spend them. They must be committed by December 31, 2024. A letter has been prepared for the mayor's signature.

### **Mayor's Report**

Congratulated Chief Reece Bertholf on this promotion to Deputy City Manager and commended him on his time as Fire Chief. Congratulated Tim Ogden on his promotion to Fire Chief and wished them both much success.

Welcomed all the new businesses to the area, and thanked city staff and the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce for their roles in the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

He attended the Change of Command Ceremony for the Army Corps of Engineers in Charleston. Congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Johannes as he takes command.

Thanked Commodore Morris and his staff on another successful Water Festival.

Invited citizens to take a drive through the Commerce Park to see the growth taking place. Progress is definitely being made.

Beaufort Memorial Hospital will be adding another vaccination clinic next Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This will be by appointment only. He encouraged citizens to get vaccinated.

Was elected to the South Carolina Mayors Association Board of Directors and is looking forward to serving on the City's behalf.

### **Councilman Mitchell**

Thanked Linda Roper and Kathleen Williams on behalf of the Charles Lind Brown Center Task Force for all the work that they put in on the survey. There were 495 responses. He thanked Eric Greenway from Beaufort County for all his hard work as well.

There will be a Family Fun Day being held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Location is the Charles Lind Brown Center (aka Greene Street Gym), 1001 Hamar Street. This is a free event, and all residents are welcome to attend.

Reported that a lot on Green Street for a Community Garden is being donated. The location is directly across from Marshel's Wright Donaldson Funeral Home.

Spoke about his experience with COVID and urged citizens to get vaccinated.

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

Reported that during the last Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) meeting, they discussed Highway 278 and the bridges going to Hilton Head. The public can still comment on this issue. Also

discussed was the Beaufort County's list of roadway projects and the priority to which they would be completed. The 2045 Long Range Transportation Study was discussed as well.

#### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Stated that he and Councilman Mitchell will be attending this year's Leadership Beaufort Class through the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce.

Reported there will be a Comprehensive Plan public comment session on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the Beaufort Fire Station located at 1120 Ribaut Road from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

#### **Councilman Cromer**

Reported that he will be attending the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021. Stephanie Rossi will be discussing the 2045 Long Range Transportation Study.

## **IX. ADJOURN**

**8:23PM**

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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).