I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
7:10 PM

Philip Cromer, Mayor


II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee.

III. **PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

A. Proclamation recognizing Second Helpings on the milestone of distributing 50 million pounds of food.

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

   All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

V. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING**

A. An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding seven million one hundred thousand dollars ($7,100,000.00) Hospitality and Accommodations Fee Revenue Bond.

   Mayor Cromer opened the Public Hearing.

   The following addressed Council.

   Paul Trask, 610 Bladen Street  
   Graham Trask, 1211 Bay Street  
   Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn, LLC

   Mayor Cromer closed the Public Hearing.

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

   First Reading was held on December 12, 2023.
All were in favor, motion carried.

VI. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - December 12, 2023.

B. Special Council Meeting - December 19, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request from Holy Trinity to host the 5th annual Swing Bridge 5K/Walk on Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 7:45 am - 9:30 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Request for co-sponsorship from Dragon Boat Beaufort for use of the Henry C. Chambers Park, Day Dock, and complementary parking to host Dragon Boat Race Day 2024 on Saturday, June 29, 2024.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

C. Permission to host the 2024 Taste of Beaufort and Arts and Crafts Market in the Henry C. Chambers Park, May 3 - 4, 2024, request waivers for sale of alcohol, open container, public drinking, noise ordinance, street closures and issuance of parking passes.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

D. Permission to host the 2024 Beaufort Shrimp Festival and Arts and Crafts Market in the Henry C. Chambers Park, October 4 - 5, 2024, host the Run Forrest Run 5K/Walk on Saturday, October 5, 2024, and request waivers for the sale of alcohol, open container, public drinking, noise ordinance, street closures and permission for issuance of twenty five (25) parking passes.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

E. Accommodations Tax Grant Award (ATAX) recommendations.

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

Councilman Mitchell made a motion to amend the recommendations from the Tourism Development Advisory Committee as follows:

Reduce the Destination Marketing for Greater Beaufort-Port Royal Convention & Visitors Bureau from $160,000.00 to $146,000.00 and reduce their Sales Plan from $40,000.00 to $34,500.00.

Reduce SC Lowcountry and Resort Islands Tourism from $54,900.00 to $47,029.00.
Reduce Beaufort Area Hospitality Association - BAHA from $20,000.00 to $18,250.00.
Reduce Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail from $ 4,010.66 to $3,257.00.
Reduce Port Royal Sound Foundation from $7,600.00 to $6,650.00.
Increase the Original Gullah Festival from $14,000.00 to $33,825.00.
Reduce The Penn Center from $8,900.00 to $8,075.00.
Reduce Tabernacle Baptist Church from $25,000.00 to $23,875.00.
Reduce Freedman Arts District from $12,500.00 to $10,625.00.
Reduce the Friends of Hunting Island from $12,000.00 to $10,625.00.
Increase Gullah Traveling Theater from $10,000.00 to $10,500.00.
Reduce South Coast Cyber Center from $5,000.00 to $4,750.00.
Increase Mather School Museum from $5,500.00 to $6,125.00.
The total to be distributed now is $379,411.00.
The motion was seconded by Councilman Scallate.
All were in favor of the amended motion, motion carried.
Approval on the main motion was unanimous.

F. Ordinance to amend FY24 Budget for Revenues and Expenditures of General Fund and ARPA Fund - 1st reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that this amendment includes the $2,000,00.00 that was received from the State of South Carolina Appropriations for Maritime Cybersecurity and Healthcare Workforce Initiatives and $500,000.00 for improvements to 1100 Boundary Street from Beaufort County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

All were in favor, motion carried.

G. Authorization for City Manager to enter into a contract for Southside Park Phase I improvements.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that a Request for Proposal was sent for the Southside Park - Phase I Playground Area improvements. The city received one bid from Nix Construction, Inc. The original bid was for $3,593,370.50. The bid was reduced to $3,343,995.98.

All were in favor, motion carried.

H. Appointments to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Scallate made a motion to appoint Mike Tomy and Paul Trask for a 1 year term to expire June 30, 2025; William Suter and Bill Bardenwerper for 2 year terms to expire June 30, 2026; Benjie Morillo, Kim McFann, and Clinton Hallman for 3 year terms to expire on June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.
City Manager’s Report

Wished all a Happy New Year.

There will be a Code Edit Worksession on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

January 30 - 31, 2024, there will be a Strategic Planning Council Retreat that will be held at the Police Department Training Room and is open to the public.

Introduce John “JJ” Sauve, the new Assistant City Manager.

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024, for the Martin Luther King Holiday. There will be a parade starting at 10:00 am.

Congratulated Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, and the Finance Department staff on a clean financial audit. That means that no discrepancies were noted.

Thanked Lawrence Flynn and David Cheatwood for their assistance with the Revenue Bond.

Mayor’s Report

Reported that he has met with Nancy Mace’s staff.

Attended the Christmas Drop In at the Black Chamber of Commerce.

Met with the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation about their future plans.

Attended the USCB Men’s and Women’s basketball conference opening games.

Attended the Neighborhood Association Meeting held at City Hall.

Will be participating in the MLK breakfast on Saturday, January 13, 2024.

Will be meeting with Brigadier General Field at Parris Island, on January 17, 2024. He will also be meeting with Warren Parker with the South Coast Cyber Center on that day.

Will be attending the Board Meeting for the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation on January 18, 2024.

Councilman Mitchell

Congratulated Mayor Cromer on his first meeting sitting in the Mayor’s chair.

Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Thanked Beaufort County Council Member Alice Howard for her efforts regarding the additional Pickleball Courts and Basketball Court that are to be placed at Southside Park.

Stated that there will be wreath pick up at the National Cemetery on Saturday, January 20, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Thanked Staff for all the events throughout the holidays.

Thanked everyone for their efforts that participated in the procurement of the upcoming amenities that are to be added to the Southside and Washington Street Parks.
Councilman Scallate

Thanked Staff on their communication efforts to keep the citizens informed.

Attended the Pirate Plunge on New Year’s Day.

Will be participating in the Point in Time Count that will take place on January 24, 2024.

Congratulations to all that were appointed to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Lipsitz

Welcomed aboard JJ Sauve to the City Administrative Staff.

Happy to see that Southside Park will be moving forward with its improvements.

Thanked everyone who reached out concerning the passing of his Mom.

IX. ADJOURN 7:50 PM

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofbeaufort.org (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tgdner@cityofbeaufort.org.

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)(e), as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the City’s bulletin board and website www.cityofbeaufort.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.