



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

February 14, 2023

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:01 PM**

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, Josh Scallate and Mayor Murray.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

**III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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A. Proclamation proclaiming February 19th through February 25th as Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Kevin Cuppia expressed his concerns regarding the hotel and parking garage development downtown that is adjacent to his property. He is in hopes that some kind of seismic equipment will be utilized as there are historical buildings nearby that could be damaged including the Tabby Wall. He also wants to make sure that egress in and out will not be blocked.

Mike Riban, Assistant Superintendent, with CPPI of Georgia, introduced himself to Council.

**V. MINUTES**

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Regular Meeting - January 24, 2023.

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

Mayor Murray stated that under his Mayor's report, 4,028 new jobs should read 1,400 new jobs.

Minutes approved with correction.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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- A. Approval of Town of Port Royal Council appointment of Linda Robinson to the Beaufort Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as the Town of Port Royal representative.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Mitchell. Her term will expire on April 30, 2027.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. FY 2023 Budget Amendment - 1st reading.

Motion to table this discussion was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## **VII. REPORTS**

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

Reported that from the Police Department, they have launched a Camera Registration Program. This allows residents to voluntarily register their outdoor security cameras. There were also two promotions in the department to First Sergeant. Officer Benjamin Brooks and Sean Flomer.

The Police Department will also be hosting all three FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) courses this year. The first one will be on February 20, 2023, with others to follow in April and June. We have five officers scheduled to attend the February session free of charge because we are the hosts. Normal cost to attend is \$795.

There will be a Chill with a Cop event at Southside Park on Friday, February 17, 2023, beginning at 6:15pm.

Stated that next week, members from the Fire Department will be participating and teaching in the First Impressions Program at Riverview Charter School. This is a four-day program where something new and different is taught each day, with students getting daily prizes and homework assignments to do with their parents.

On February 8, 2023, Carrie Gorsuch attended an award ceremony in Columbia where Davis & Floyd was recognized as a National Finalist in the American Council of Engineering Companies 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards. The award was in recognition of the drainage study to support the city's goal of achieving long-term coastal community resiliency within The Point/Downtown study area.

Announced that through a State Budget Proviso in the FY23 budget, we received \$2M in funding to support Beaufort Memorial Hospital & USCB Nursing Programs and local Cybersecurity initiatives. Staff will be bringing forward a budget ordinance for first reading at the next meeting for acceptance and disbursement of funds.

There was a public comment period for the Beaufort National Historical Landmark Integrity and Condition Study that opened on January 25, 2023, and closes on March 11, 2023. As part of the public comment process, the National Park Service held two public input events at City Hall on February 8th and February 9th.

On January 31, 2023, we submitted a grant application for \$200K (20% match) to the SC Dept of Archives and History for the Carnegie Library to repair, restore and replace the roof and dormers. We should know by May 1, 2023, whether grant funds are awarded.

Preparations are underway for City Council's Strategic Planning Retreat March 7-8, 2023, at 500 Carteret Street. Agenda will be forthcoming, and the public will be invited to attend.

### **Mayor's Report**

Stated that the Council Retreat will take place on March 7-8, 2023.

Enjoyed attending the Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia, SC. Glad to see we had a good showing.

Reported he will be completing the Riley Mayors Fellowship in Charleston this week.

### **Councilman Scallate**

Also attended the Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia, SC. Stated that he also started his sessions through the Municipal Elected Officials Institute.

Wished all a Happy Valentine's Day.

### **Mitch Mitchell**

Wished all a Happy Valentine's Day.

Complimented Dr. N'kia Campbell with the Beaufort County School District Office of Academic Initiatives on the successful 2nd annual African American History Education Conference. This was held February 9-11, 2023.

There will be a community event on February 25, 2023, at the Henry C. Chambers Park beginning at 2:00 pm. This is to be a time of relationship building between the Citizens and Law Enforcement in the County following the death of Tyre Nichols.

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

Stated he always gets a lot out of attending the Hometown Legislative Action Day. Illuminates the importance of Home Rule.

Mentioned that through the Census adjustments, Northern Beaufort County is now classified as an Urban Section. Through Palmetto Breeze, we now have opportunities for additional funding sources.

Reported that the Beaufort International Film Festival will start on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and end on Sunday, February 26, 2023.

### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Wished all a Happy Valentine's Day.

Wished Councilman Scallate a Happy Birthday.

Reported that he and Councilman Mitchell graduated from the Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**7:26 PM**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

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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). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).