



# Special Council Meeting Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

March 31, 2020

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**5:30PM**

Mayor, Billy Keyserling - All members of Council in attendance (Mike McFee, Nan Sutton, Phil Cromer, Stephen Murray and Mayor Keyserling).

## **II. INVOCATION**

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A. Mike McFee, Mayor Pro Tem

## **III. COUNCIL ORGANIZATION**

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A. Re-Appointment of Municipal Judges - Ned Tupper and Mary Sharp.

Motion to approve made by Cromer and seconded by Murray.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated it was the same contract as before and that the position had been advertised for thirty days.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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No Comments

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

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A. Approval to allow donation of City used vehicles to Hampton County

Motion made by Murray and seconded by McFee.

Matt Clancy, Police Chief, gave an overview of the request and asked Council if they would approve the donation of three police vehicles to Hampton County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Prokop stated that this process is the same one the City did with the Technical College of the Lowcountry two years ago, donated fleet that is extremely old.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

B. Ordinance amending Part 5, Article C (Beaufort Redevelopment Incentive Program) and Part 10, Chapter 3 (Incentive reimbursements grant program for certain annexations) - 1st Reading

Motion to approve was made by Murray and seconded by Cromer.

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, gave an overview of amendments for consideration and reiterated what was discussed at the January 21, 2020 and March 10, 2020 Worksession meetings, when City Council reviewed the incentive ordinances for redevelopment and annexations.

Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was unanimous.

C. Approval of Resolution regarding COVID-19 and proposed actions

Motion to approve made by Murray and seconded by McFee.

Mr. Prokop stated that the City urges the citizens to practice social distancing and to follow all orders from the Governor so we can do all our part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, we have some that have not taken this seriously. Public safety is our main concern.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the Governor's order should be imbedded in the resolution. Councilman Murray felt the language in the resolution had enough weight in it that we do not need to include the Governor's order. Councilman McFee concurred.

Councilman Cromer expressed some concerns as to not being sure on how much could be done regarding the order except maybe ask store owners to limit how many patrons they allow at one time, otherwise, they will still have crowds.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

## VI. REPORTS

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**City Manager's Report** - Mr. Prokop thanked our first responders for all their efforts during this virus. He also wanted to thank the communications team; they have been doing a great job keeping citizens updated. Mr. Prokop addressed comments he had received about parking enforcement downtown. Some of the citizens feel that all Park Beaufort does is walk around and write tickets. Mr. Prokop stated that was false, that they do more than write tickets; they collect the monies, they clean and fix the meters when necessary but most of the time they are dealing with customer service. Our normal number of tickets issued are about 60 a week. In the last two weeks about 17 had been issued, most of these tickets are for citizens parking in driveways, loading zones and at designated free curbside parking. Unfortunately, we have a small percentage that feel the rules do not apply to them. Currently, we are doing minimal enforcements.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor Keyserling reported he heard some concerns of stores being overcrowded and it is more than some of the big box stores.

**Councilwoman Nan Sutton** - Councilwoman Sutton stated she received a call from Bo Hodges at Adams Outdoor Advertising. Mr. Hodges offered the use of his small digital board to make public announcements to the community. She felt that this was a good idea and wanted to put it on the table.

**Councilman Mike McFee** - Councilman McFee wanted to clarify a statement Mr. Prokop said about the numbers at MUSC. McFee stated the it is "to date" not "today". He also commended the first responders as well. In addition, he gave a big thanks to Russell Baxley, President of Beaufort Memorial Hospital, for his social comments in reference to the front lines and the hard work they are all faced with daily. Councilman McFee stated that it takes a village to combat this COVID-19.

**Councilman Murray** - Beaufort Digital Corridor (BDC) met Friday and had a meeting via zoom. The BDC is currently closed to the public until further notice. BDC voted to postpone Our Live Work Save program which is a program that would have launched this summer working with some colleges and students. Shelley Barret, Executive Director from BDC, is leaving and moving West where her significant other will be doing his residency. The BDC is currently looking for her replacement. Councilman Murray expressed that it has been a tough couple of weeks for small business owners and dealing with the bureaucracy of unemployment. He expressed he has been doing a lot of research and if anyone has questions or concerns, they can reach out to him or Charlie Stone from Beaufort County Economic Development Corp., who has been doing a great job getting the information out to small businesses. Shout out to the Black Chamber of Commerce, who has hired their new president today. The Black Chamber has also been doing a great job of informing the citizens. Councilman Murray's final thought was about a statement a Hilton Head Island Councilman made in their meeting last night, "it is not about me, it is about us".

**Councilman Cromer** - Councilman Cromer mentioned the word council was misspelled in the resolution that was read today in the Now Therefore section. Affordable Housing Task Force had not decided yet if future meetings will be held via Zoom. He asked council if they received and read the article that Lolita had emailed to them and asked if we had anything in the pipeline that would create a problem for us. Mr. Prokop said no.

Councilman Cromer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Murray seconded the motion.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

**6:20PM**

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