I. CALL TO ORDER

Philip Cromer, Mayor


II. DISCUSSION

A. Interviews of applicants for Boards, Commissions and Committees - Historic District Review Board.

City council held a question and answer session with all the applicants.

Maxine Lutz, Kim Petrella, Katherine Pringle, and Wayne Reynolds.

Some were not able to make this session and will be interviewing on May 14, 2024.

B. Hospitality Tax Fund recommendations.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, spoke about City Ordinance 7-13003(2) that speaks to how these funds are to be used for advertising to increase tourism and revitalization of the downtown economy. All those that apply must be non-profit organizations. The allocation this year is $28,600.00. 7 proposals were submitted totaling $89,649.00.

Mr. Eisenman, along with Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Service Director, and JJ Sauve, Assistant City Manager, then went over the recommendations for disbursement of the funds, how they came to those figures, and answered questions from Council.

Councilman Mitchell would like to see some funds given to the Penn Center even if their event is not being held downtown.

Councilman Scallate, inquired about how the scoring between the Downtown Merchants Association and the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association materialized.

Consensus was to re-evaluate the figures before moving forward.

C. Ordinance amending Part 8, Chapter 2, Section 2-2003, of the City Code of Ordinances concerning vehicle and property removal.

Stephanie Price, Interim Police Chief, gave background information as to why the assessment and updating of this section of the ordinance involving the removal of vehicles and property was necessary to ensure uniformity. She stated that the proposed language and
fee schedule were taken from the South Carolina Highway Patrol’s towing standards. She then responded to questions from Council.

Representatives from various towing companies addressed Council with their concerns, and how the proposed changes would impact their businesses.

Greg Felver, Felver Transport.
Michael Louder, Interstate Towing.
Kenneth Cairnes, Hubba Bubba Towing.
Vince Samillano, V & E Towing.
Sonya Guinn, East Coast Collision and Recovery.

Staff will reach out to the towing companies and meet with them about their concerns before moving forward.

D. **An ordinance to amend the City Code of Ordinances to add Section 9-1018, providing that a person who violates another with the intent to intimidate another person or persons in whole, or in part, because of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or national origin of the other person or persons, is guilty of the separate offense of hate intimidation.**

**JJ Sauve, Assistant City Manager,** started off by saying that the State of South Carolina is only one of two states that currently does not have a state statute or code addressing hate crimes. There are 9 cities/towns across the state that have adopted local hate crime ordinances. The proposed language used to make these recommended changes to Section 9, were taken from the Towns of Bluffton and Hardeeville.

**Scott Marshall, City Manager,** stated that the City passed a resolution last year in support of the Hate Crimes Bill, even though the bill did not pass. He indicated that many of the local municipalities have taken it upon themselves to pass their own versions of the hate crimes ordinance.

Council’s questions and concerns were addressed by Interim Police Chief Price and Mr. Sauve.

Council is comfortable with the language as written.

---

**III. ADJOURN**

**6:37 PM**

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](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.

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.