City Council Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

April 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER 7:06 PM

Philip Cromer, Mayor


II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Michael McFee.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Charlene Spearen, Historic Penn Center, addressed Council regarding the Hospitality Tax Fund Recommendations.

Conway Ivy, 501 King Street, spoke about the King Street Drainage Project.

Jay Weidner, 1307 Calhoun Street, addressed Council about developing a stronger Tree Ordinance.

IV. MINUTES

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting – April 9, 2024.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Tabernacle Baptist Church is requesting to host the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman Memorial at 901 Craven Street on Saturday, June 1, 2024. They are requesting a street closure on Craven Street from Charles to West Streets from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm.

   Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz
   All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Request for street closures from Project Freedom 326 to host a parade on June 16, 2024, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

   Motion to approve was made by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Scallate.
All were in favor, motion carried.

C. 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 - first reading.

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

Kay Merrill, 813 Audusta Place, addressed Council.

JJ Sauve, Assistant City Manager, started off by saying that last year, Council passed a Resolution in support of the state adopting a Hate Crime Bill. The State of South Carolina is only one of two states that currently does not have a state statute or code addressing hate crimes. The other is the State of Wyoming. He listed the 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, are identical to those ordinances. He stated that this is not a standalone offense.

Council members spoke individually about why they are in support of this ordinance.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VI. REPORTS

City Manager’s Report

Announced that the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County will be holding a Community Forum at City Hall on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

The Taste of Beaufort will be held on May 3-4, 2024, in the Henry C. Chambers Park.

There will be an informational meeting on the Downtown/Point Stormwater Drainage Project on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 am in City Hall Council Chambers.

A second informational meeting with project contractors covering outfall, generator, and control buildings, will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 3:30 pm in the City Hall Planning Conference Room. A special meeting of City Council will also be held this date at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Mayor’s Report

Thanked Mayor Pro Tem, McFee for running the Code Edit Worksession in his absence.

Participated in the awards ceremony for Let History Speak Celebration at TCL.

Attended the USCB Institute for the Study of Reconstruction Era Symposium. The subject was the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent.

Will be attending the 75th Anniversary of the Beaufort Naval Hospital.

Will be attending the USCB Commencement Exercises on Friday, April 26, 2024.

Updated Council on the various meetings he had attended.


Councilman Mitchell

Attended the reception and symposium at USCB for an event titled Breathing Democracy into Spaces: 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Attended the Duke University Charitable Concert.

Councilman Scallate

Attended the Soft Shell Crab Festival in Port Royal.

Is looking forward to the Project Freedom 326 One Community Parade and feels it will have a positive impact in the community.

Thanked Assistant City Manager, JJ Sauve, for stepping in while the City Manager was away.

Councilman Lipsitz

Attended a building dedication ceremony on Parris Island that was named in honor of Sergeant Major Louis Rountree with Councilman Mitchell.

Members of Council attended Ray Stock's 100th birthday celebration.

Members of Council attended the Synergy Medical Spa Ribbon Cutting.

VII. ADJOURN 7:57 PM

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

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 tgdldner@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.