



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

May 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:02PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance (Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray)

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of the new Executive Director of the Beaufort Digital Corridor - Jessica O'Brien

Mayor Murray introduced Jessica O'Brien. She spoke about some of the new ventures that the Beaufort Digital Corridor is involved in and invited those that have never been to come and see the facility.

B. Charles Lind Brown Community Center Task Force

Councilman Mitchell introduced members of the Charles Lind Brown Community Center Task Force. Mr. Allen, who was voted Chairman, spoke about the Task Force and the issues they intend to focus on. They feel they have been given an opportunity to serve the community and are looking forward to a collaborative effort to revitalize the Community Center which is also known as the Green Street Gym. They are looking to bring programs back into Beaufort that will benefit the youth, as well as the senior members of the community.

Mayor Murray, inquired about a possible timeline, and how the City might be of assistance.

Mr. Allen feels that this should be able to be accomplished within the next 6 to 12 months.

Councilman Mitchell stated that County Councilman Frank Glover will be meeting with Beaufort County Community Development Director Eric Greenway for feedback. Mr. Greenway will also be appointing an employee from the County to the Task Force.

Councilman Lipsitz inquired if they were considering adding any high school kids to help on the Task Force to gain perspective from their generation.

Mr. Allen stated that we needed to start grooming our youth, as they are the future. A survey will be sent out that will include them, so that everyone can be heard, and get participation from all facets.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance adding section 6-3004 - Litter from construction to the Beaufort Code of Ordinances to encourage the use of proactive mitigation to prevent litter from leaving construction sites within the limits of the City

Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League Director, stated this Ordinance would be a proactive mitigation to help protect the environment from construction debris leaving construction sites, particularly Expanded Polystyrene Foam (Styrofoam). These particles are very light weight and are easily carried by the wind and are very hard to clean up once disbursed. They are detrimental to the health of communities and habitats. She showed Council a few pictures and also brought samples for them to view. The Ordinance does not prohibit the use of these materials, just provides for ways to keep them contained to the job site.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, asked if the mitigation guidelines were considered best practices for construction. He referenced the rasping with the vacuum system.

Bruce Skipper, Building Official, stated yes.

Mayor Murray stated that he was surprised that there was no Ordinance in place governing these types of events and recommended to move this forward for First Reading.

- B. Strategic Plan Update

Bill Prokop, City Manager, started off by stating there were very few additions made to the Strategic Plan. Hopes to have the updated Strategic Plan published by early June 2021. This Plan governs the goals and strategies that have been set to be accomplished over the next several years. This Plan also helps in the preparation of the Fiscal Years Budget.

Reece Bertholf, Assistant City Manager, went over the 4 Key Focus Areas, their 15 Objectives, and the Initiatives within each section. He covered the recommended changes that came from the Council Retreat in March 2021. Council gave additional recommendations on changes that they would like to see made to the Strategic Plan.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, informed Council, and the Public, that many of the Objectives in the Strategic Plan are already underway. This is not a document that gets published and just sits on a shelf.

IV. ADJOURN

6:02 PM

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