I. CALL TO ORDER

Philip Cromer, Mayor


II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Ned Tupper and Mary Sharp as Municipal Judges for a 2-year term to expire on June 30, 2026. Councilman Lipsitz seconded.

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Character Education Proclamation - Juliet Pieczonka, Beaufort Middle School.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Trask, 610 Bladen Street, spoke about the County 2024 Transportation Tax Initiative and about funding for a third bridge crossing. Written comments are attached.

Rose Ewing, 43 Thomas Sumter Street, addressed Council about the fast development on Lady's Island. She spoke about the Camellia Banks subdivision off of Miller Road. She has spoken at a Beaufort County Council meeting as well.

Eric Brown, Parks and Recreation Director for Beaufort County, spoke about an event, Unity in the Community at the Lind Brown Community Center. This will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2024. He also spoke regarding new pilot program initiatives.

VI. MINUTES

A. Worksession - May 21, 2024.
Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee. Mayor Cromer abstained from the vote, as he was not present at the meeting. Minutes approved as presented.

B. Worksession and Regular Meeting - May 28, 2024.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Mitchell. Minutes approved as presented.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance to amend Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Revenues and Expenditures of TIF II Fund and Capital Projects Fund - second reading.

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

First reading was held on May 14, 2024. No changes made since first reading.

A second reading was held on May 28, 2024. After a brief discussion at that meeting, a motion to postpone the rest of discussion was approved.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, gave a brief summary of what is being proposed.

Paul Trask, 610 Bladen Street, is not opposed to the improvements, but the overall cost. Encouraged Council to vote against the project. Written comments are attached.

Rob Cahill, 608 Waters Street, spoke against the project. Does not see a compelling reason to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee voted in favor of the project. All others were opposed.

Motion did not carry.

B. Authorization for City Manager to enter into a contract for SC Highway 170 Sidewalk Extension.

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

Motion carried.

C. Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an easement for the placement of utility infrastructure on real property known as Southside Park by the City of Beaufort to Dominion Energy of South Carolina, Inc. - second reading.

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

No changes have been made since first reading on May 28, 2024.

All were in favor, motion carried.

D. An ordinance to provide for the levy of taxes for the City of Beaufort for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025; to provide for execution of and to put into effect the consolidated budget; and to provide budgetary control of the City’s fiscal affairs - second reading.

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

No changes have been made since first reading on May 14, 2024.
All were in favor, motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance amending Part 1, Chapter 3, Article A, Section 1-3001 (a) and 1-3003 (b) of the City Code of Ordinances concerning the date and time of council meetings and the rules of order of council meetings - first reading.

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

J.J. Sauve, Assistant City Manager, stated that these changes are necessary to facilitate language for scheduled meetings, and rules of procedure in the proposed City Council Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

Dianne Farrelly, 2415 Oak Haven Street, asked questions regarding the manual.

All were in favor, motion carried.


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

J.J. Sauve, Assistant City Manager, went over a list of changes that have been made to the document since the discussion in worksession on May 28, 2024.

Paul Trask, 610 Bladen Street, addressed Council on many issues like electronic communications, and video recordings retention. Written comments are attached.

Dianne Farrelly, 2415 Oak Haven Street, asked questions about the manual.

Cynthia Jenkins, Historic Beaufort Foundation, spoke about video recordings retention.

All were in favor of the amendments that have been made, motion carried.

C. Appointments/Reappointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to recommend Andy Kinghorn as the City representative on the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors for a 6-year term to expire on June 30, 2030. Councilman Lipsitz seconded the motion.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Ken Hoffman to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Scallate seconded the motion.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Lise Sundrla, as representative for the Historic Beaufort Foundation, and Kathryn Mixson as representative for the Beaufort History Museum, to the Cultural District Advisory Board for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Lipsitz seconded the motion.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Chetan Patel and appoint Jennifer Mader to the Tourism Development Advisory Committee for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Scallate seconded the motion.
All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to appoint Isaiah Martinez and Joe Macdermant to the Park and Tree Advisory Commission for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Scallate seconded the motion.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Cromer read from a document regarding the Historic District Review Board seats vote. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to reappoint Mike Sutton to the Design Professional Seat on the Historic District Review Board for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Lipsitz seconded the motion.

Mayor Cromer read some comments regarding this seat. His letter is attached to these minutes.

The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1. Mayor Cromer voted no.

Councilman Scallate made a motion to appoint Kim Petrella to the General Seat, who must live or own property in the Historic District, on the Historic District Review Board for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2027. Councilman Lipsitz seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1. Mayor Cromer voted no.

IX. REPORTS

City Manager’s Report

Thanked Council for approving the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Thanked Linda Roper and staff for their work in making sure evaluators had the information they needed to recertify the city as having a Cultural District.

Congratulations to Kristy Kittle and Brian Ladson from Human Resources who earned their professional certification as Human Resources professionals. Congratulations to Firefighter 1, Casey Phelps, who was recently promoted to the rank of Firefighter 2.

Public Works is sponsoring a Touch a Truck event this Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Pigeon Point Park from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Project Freedom 326 Juneteenth Unity Parade is on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

The Police Department’s Future Guardians Initiative Summer Camp Program will be starting on June 17, 2024.

City offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in celebration of Juneteenth.

The Police Department will host an Open House event on June 22, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The public is invited to attend, interact with their police officers, take a guided tour of the police department and its operations.

The Fire Department’s Sparky Embers Program for young ladies will take place the week of June 24, 2024, with 12 participants in this first offering. Registration for the event is closed, but we look forward to a great first offering and look forward to building on this year’s program.
The Police Department is hosting a Chill with a Cop event at Ambrose Run on June 26, 2024, starting at 4:00 pm. On August 1, 2024, they are planning another Chill with a Cop event at Spanish Trace. The time will be announced later.

The Fire Department is offering CPR instruction to rising 6th grade through 12th grade students on June 29, 2024. See the Department’s social media page for registration information.

Staff continue to work with Davis & Floyd engineers on alternate designs for the King Street drainage project. We expect to have new and additional designs of the outfall and pump station for review on June 25, 2024, during the City Council Worksession.

Wished a Happy Father’s Day to all!

**Mayor’s Report**

Thanked Public Works staff for installing the Prichard’s Island Research Laboratory Panels in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park.

Attended a Point Association Party along with other members of Council.

Handed out trophies at the YMCA River Swim.

Will be attending the Change of Command Ceremony on Parris Island.

Wished all the dads a Happy Father’s Day.

**Councilman Mitchell**

Announced that on Saturday, June 15, 2024, two events will also be taking place as part of the Juneteenth celebrations. Celebration of Freedom will take place at the Penn Center from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. There will also be an event starting at 3:00 pm at 634 Campground Road in Yemassee, SC.

Wished all the dads a Happy Father’s Day.

Thanked Eric Brown for attending the Council Meeting and introducing himself.

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

Thanked staff for the preparation of the budget, and the City Council Standard Operating Procedures Manual. He thanked the public for their comments.

**Councilman Scallate**

Reported that he interviewed for the Leadership Beaufort Program. Thanked Connie Hipp for affording him the opportunity.

Thanked all that applied and interviewed for the various Boards and Commissions seats. Feels that overall, this Council is extremely thoughtful in who they appoint to these boards. He stated he was caught off guard with the mayor’s letter in regard to preservation. He feels that most of those that were interviewed expressed great interest in helping us retain our historic integrity. He mentioned that preservation is the underlying tone for why they volunteer themselves to be on the board. He appreciates the fact that they come forward and are willing to be a part of the process. If things need to be changed in the code to better ensure that our history is preserved, changes that would better support the volunteers that dedicate so much of their time, he is open to having those conversations.

**Councilman Lipsitz**

Stated that Leadership Beaufort is a great program.

Attended a Post and Courier event at Plums.
Thanked staff for all they do.
Wished all the dads a Happy Father’s Day.

Members of Council reported on the various meetings they had attended.
Members of Council attended the Harriett Tubman Memorial Dedication.
Members of Council attended the Legislative Reception through the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce.

X.     EXECUTIVE SESSION

   A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding contracts, leases, and agreements.

   Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

   All were in favor, motion carried.

   Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

   All were in favor, motion carried.

   No actions from Executive Session.

XI.     ADJOURN

         9:45 PM

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

   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 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.
Letter To Beaufort City Council

Date: June 11, 2024

From: Paul Trask
610 Bladen Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

Public Comment Section

Please include this letter to the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Beaufort City Council Meeting.

The comments contained in this letter are made solely in my capacity as a private citizen. They are not made in my capacity as a member of the City of Beaufort Planning Commission. They are not made in any capacity as a member of the Trask family. They are not made in any capacity as owner and/or manager of any business entity, nor on behalf of any organization.

ISSUE Re: County 2024 Transportation Tax Initiative:

My concern is that another decade will go by and the traffic situation flowing from the Woods bridge down Carteret and Boundary and through downtown itself will worsen. The Woods bridge will break down from time to time as it has historically done (perhaps catastrophically).

Why isn’t the City at least advocating for the 3rd bridge crossing at Brickyard Point? Forward thinking and consideration of this issue is vital.

Summary of Northern Bypass Issues

2003 Wilbur Smith Study
1. Complete bypass loop; Westerly, Northerly, and Easterly
2. Decided to focus on the Northerly across the river from US21 to Brickyard Rd.
   a. “relieve traffic congestion in the downtown Beaufort area by providing an alternative to the Woods Memorial Bridge”
3. 2020 projections would reduce Woods bridge traffic by 5,000-7,000 vehicles per day and McTeer bridge traffic by 2,000-3,000 vehicles per day.

2007 Northern Regional Plan
1. Northern Beaufort County expected to grow from +80,500 to +123,500 by 2027. 53%
2. Listed transportation improvement projects to be completed by 2025
3. Some completed, some not.
4. Listed need to study 3rd River Crossing – Northern Bypass

2012 Beaufort County 1% Sales Tax Progress Report
1. Thomas & Hutton “Preferred Alignment” environmental assessment for northern bypass completed.
2. “Parallel Road portion of the Boundary Street improvements has been put on hold, with the intention of construction in the future as development occurs.” P23

2018 Lady’s Island Area Plan – Single Page
1. Questions whether 3rd crossing will create more growth on Lady’s Island – St. Helena
2. Concedes that if growth continues, a 3rd bridge would be necessary

1.
2019 Ladys Island Plan

1. Manage growth:
   a. Limitations on Sewer/Septic
   b. Limit Fill Dirt
   c. Purchase Land & Conservation Easements
2. Continues To Push Bicycle/Pedestrian way but nothing gets done
3. Continues To Push Village/Connector Streets but nothing gets done
4. Projects that additional 8,795 dwelling units are possible which exceeds projected 2035 demand.
5. Admits that continued growth is likely but advocates to avoid need for 3rd bridge by making numerous local street and pathway improvements.

2023 Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee Agenda

1. Floats concept that 3rd bridge is actually a replacement bridge for Woods as it continues to age.
2. Lists as a future agenda item the concept for the so called “replacement bridge”

Discussion of a 3rd bridge has been ongoing for over 20 years.
Growth continues and will not stop. Traffic will continue to increase. Woods Bridge will continue to age.
Frustration is evident. Traffic on Ladys Island is terrible. Result: the rise of local groups calling for limitations on growth. Traffic snarls and congestion on Carteret, Bay, Ribaut and Boundary will worsen.
Traffic woes cannot be cured by localized connector streets and multi-use paths alone. These are subordinate parts of the full solution which requires the Northern Connector.
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Beaufort, SC 29902

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ISSUE  Re: Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 6-23 and the RFP 2024-108 Hwy SC 170 Sidewalk Extension:

Council tabled the 2nd reading of this amending ordinance in order to study the matter more fully. This matter is a case study of why the City should exercise great caution when entering into a contract for public work and the expenditure of public funds.

It is given that this project was identified as a priority capital project during the 2024 strategic planning sessions.

However,
The project generated only 2 bids.
The spread between the bids was $88,355.73 or 31% of the low bid. RED FLAG
The low bid was $97,621.80 or 52% above the budget.
The low bid included a price of $123,292.30 for the components to install (4) light poles. RED FLAG

The City should not proceed with a cost overrun of this magnitude just because the project was prioritized. Under the circumstances, this project should be de-prioritized.
The City should adopt a policy to require tabling and further analysis of any project which comes in above 15% of its budget.

This particular project, while worthy, is not in the best interest of the citizenry at this price. This project should be shelved indefinitely and taken up when the business circumstances are more favorable to secure a reasonable price.

The TIF2 funds should therefore be kept for this future purpose and for other appropriate uses and kept working to earn interest in the meantime. I would appreciate confirmation that the corpus of the TIF2 money is working to earn interest income.
### Change(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Page</th>
<th>New Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Change(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>Section C, removed “t” from “plant” in last sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 14       | 13       | 2.08    | 1.ii- changed “mail” to “email”  
B- changed “two” to “three” |
| 15       | 14       | 2.08    | 2- added “immediate” before family |
| 17       | 16       | 2.08    | 2- changed “mail” to “email”  
E- added “the members of Council will be notified” |
| 18       | 17       | 2.08    | “C” changed to “G”  
added “…prior to such policy or position being formally adopted by Council.” |
| 21       | 20       | 3.02    | Left other boards and commissions off regarding issuance of technology. Will be reviewed as needed. May seek advisory board input moving forward.  
Approximately $400/per user to add. |
| 23       | 22       | 4.03    | Deleted “(as defined in the following paragraphs)” |
| 29       | 28       | 7.03    | Delete extra “in” in first paragraph |
| 30       | 29       | 7.04    | Added “regarding official city business” to last paragraph in 7.04 |
| 33       | 32       | 8.07    | Took out “6 years” and referenced /linked to SC Archives |
| 34       | 33       | 8.08    | Changed “3 minutes” to “5 minutes” |
| 36       | 35       | 8.08    | Removed sections vi., vii., viii. Under consent agenda examples |
| 35 & 36  | 35       | 8.08    | Change “8.09” to “8.08” under Sections I and K |
| *37      | 37       | 8.08    | In Section P changed “three” to “five” minutes |
| 40       | 39       | 8.09    | Changed “8.09(I)” to “8.09(M)” |
| 41       | 40       | Ch. 9   | Deleted “the” before Chapter 11 |

* Items in red did not show up in SOP Manual in agenda for June 11, 2024

References to “Council may” throughout the manual is intended to represent Council as a whole with the Mayor as the presiding officer/chair of the meeting. Meaning that regarding rules of order, the Mayor may decide to deviate on his own, or may consult the other members of Council, or Councilmembers may make a motion to suspend the rules of order, or to deviate in a specific manner. (Section 2.03, 9.17)

An example of this is the Mayor choosing to extend or limit public comment in some manner. The Mayor may choose to do so as the presiding officer/chair, or the Mayor may confer with Council prior to making a decision. This could only be challenged by a timely motion by a member of Council, seconded by another member of Council (Section 9.18(A)).
Letter To Beaufort City Council

Date:       June 11, 2024

From:      Paul Trask
            610 Bladen Street
            Beaufort, SC 29902

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The comments contained in this letter are made solely in my capacity as a private citizen. They are not made in my capacity as a member of the City of Beaufort Planning Commission. They are not made in any capacity as a member of the Trask family. They are not made in any capacity as owner and/or manager of any business entity, nor on behalf of any organization.

ISSUE      Re: City of Beaufort Work Session Agenda Packet May 28, 2024

I appreciate the time and effort made in the preparation of the DRAFT City Council Standard Operating Procedures Manual. Since time ran out at the work session, I was unable to give my comments. I am listing my recommendations for edits below:

1. There should be a paragraph 5 added to Section 5.04 Electronic Communications:

   Proposed paragraph 5. “City Council Members are provided with a cityofbeaufort.org email address which should be used for the conduct of all city business. Council members should never use a private email address for the conduct of city business.”

   Question: Should the City provide members of the various boards and commissions with an email address? I don’t know the answer to this question. I believe that an email sent by a citizen to a board member in regard to a project or matter before that City board may constitute a public record under the law and would need to be available for public inspection. This issue should be discussed.

2. 8.07 Electronic Video Recording of Meetings:

   As I have mentioned more than once and most recently at the May 28 2024 Council Meeting, I do not believe the City’s policy of relying on a video recording to serve as part of the minutes of a public meeting is compliant with South Carolina law. SC 30-4-90 requires written minutes to include the substance of what is said. The City has discontinued the time-honored policy of capturing the substance of citizen comments at public meetings. I believe the law is intended to capture in writing the substance of what a citizen says at a public meeting just as much as the substance of what a councilman or member of staff says.

   Furthermore, the City proposed language in 8.07 states that the video recordings are to be kept for six years. To the extent that the City purports that these recordings are “minutes” then the recordings are in direct violation of the SC Dept of Archives regulation below:

General Records Retention Schedules for Municipal Records 12-604.2. Council Minutes A. Description: Record of proceedings at meetings of the municipal council which includes written descriptions of the financial and administrative business conducted. Information includes dates of meetings, names of council members present, claim approvals, petitions, bids, proposals, other matters discussed by or brought to the attention of the council, and attachments. B. Retention: Permanent. Microfilm for security.

1.
It seems clear that the City’s intention is for the recordings to serve as official minutes, hence the City’s disclaimer which always appears on the written minutes.

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Finally, the videos recordings of all these meetings appear to be linked to Facebook. How can the City be assured that the recordings will even be preserved for 6 years? Does the City have control of the storage of this data? Is there an agreement to that effect? Is reliance on a 3rd party to store video data on behalf of the City complaint with SC law and records retention requirements?

This is an issue that requires thoughtful discussion. The City should return to the policy of accurately and substantially recording the minutes of these public meetings in writing. The video recordings are fine as an adjunct to the written minutes.

3. 8.08 C. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

   In the first paragraph, the word “Council” should be replaced with “Mayor”. The Mayor runs the meeting and should have the discretion to permit more time for a citizen to speak.

8.08 H. Consent Agenda:

The idea of the consent agenda is a good one for making meetings run smoothly and efficiently. However, items vi, Final approval of leases and agreements and viii. Second reading of ordinances should never be matters included on a consent agenda.

In the last paragraph of this section, it needs to be clarified that “any” or “a” Council Member may request to pull a consent agenda item. The language in the draft reads in the plural and suggests that more than one council member is required to exercise such discretion.

8.08 P. Addressing the Council – Manner – Limits:

In the paragraph, the 2nd and 4th word “Council” need to be replaced with the work “Mayor”.

Again, I think this document will certainly help streamline City meetings and I appreciate the effort to develop this DRAFT.
New Business: Item C.

Script for Historic District Review Board Appointments

We have two appointments to make for the Historic District Review Board. Both appointments are for three year terms set to expire on June 30, 2027.

One appointment is a seat for professionals in the disciplines of historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archeology, or related disciplines.

The remaining appointment is a seat for someone who shall either live or own property in the Historic District.

The individuals who are nominated for these seats will be chosen by a secret ballot of Council. The applicant pool consists of eligible volunteers who have been previously interviewed by Council in a public meeting. Each seat will be considered as a separate action and separate vote of Council.

The City Clerk will collect a completed ballot from each member of Council who will indicate his choice to fill the seat. After each Council member has completed his ballot, the City Clerk will collect all ballots and tally the votes. Councilman Mitchell, who is attending the meeting via Zoom, will text his vote to the Clerk.

The applicant receiving the most votes will be recorded by the Clerk and the result will be provided to me. I will then announce the name of the applicant who received the most votes and request that a motion be made to appoint that applicant.

Council, please complete your ballot for the seat requiring professionals in the disciplines of historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archeology, or related disciplines.

[Council completes ballots and hands them to the Clerk]

[Clerk totals the ballots and records the name of the person receiving highest number of votes on a single sheet of paper and hands it to the Mayor]
The applicant receiving the most votes for this seat is ________________________________.

Do I have a motion to appoint ________________________________ to the Historic District Review Board for a term to expire June 30, 2027?

Do I have a Second?

All in favor?

Any opposed?

______________________________ is hereby appointed to the Historic District Review Board.

Council will now complete our ballots to fill the seat for someone who shall either live or own property in the Historic District.

[Council completes ballots and hands them to the Clerk]

[Clerk totals the ballots and records the name of the person receiving highest number of votes on a single sheet of paper and hands it to the Mayor]

The applicant receiving the most votes for this seat is ________________________________.

Do I have a motion to appoint ________________________________ to the Historic District Review Board for a term to expire June 30, 2027?

Do I have a Second?

All in favor?

Any opposed?

______________________________ is hereby appointed to the Historic District Review Board.
My vote on the proposed candidates is in no way a reflection on them or their qualifications. I am voting no to make a statement for the record. HDRB’s mission, according to the Beaufort Code, is to preserve and protect the historic character and architectural integrity of Beaufort’s National Historic Landmark District. In Section 10.7.3. (A) of the Code states that “to the extent that such is available in the community, 2 members shall be professionals in the disciplines of historic preservation, ....”

Given the mission of the HDRB and the importance of the NHLD to the authenticity of our community, it only makes sense to have representation from the preservation community on a board charged with preservation. It is akin to having a representative of the medical community on a medical board.

Having a representative of the preservation community on the HDRB brings significant benefits and enhances the effectiveness of the Board in several areas:

1. **Expertise in historical context, architectural styles, and preservation techniques** that are crucial for maintaining the integrity of the historic district. Their expertise ensures that modifications or restorations adhere to best practices in preservation thereby safeguarding the city’s heritage.

2. **Balancing development and preservation.** Development pressures often conflict with the need to preserve historic sites and structures. A preservationist can help balance these interests, advocating for sustainable development that respects and integrates historical elements. This ensures that new development does not undermine the historical and cultural significance of the district.

3. **Enhances credibility and public trust.** Residents and stakeholders are more likely to support board decisions when preservation interests are being represented and protected.

4. **Ensuring compliance with preservation standards.** Preservationists are well-versed in local, state, and federal preservation standards and guidelines. Their presence on the Board helps ensure compliance.
5. **Preventing irreversible losses.** Proactive involvement can help to identify and address issues leading to the irreversible loss of historic sites and buildings.

Including a representative of the preservation community on the HDRB is not only beneficial but essential for maintaining Beaufort’s unique historical character and ensuring that development respects and enhances the city’s rich heritage.