



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

July 11, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:15 PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, Josh Scallate and Mayor Murray.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee.

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- A. Proclamation proclaiming July 29 - August 5, 2023, as Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation week.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Proclamation proclaiming July 14 - 23, 2023, as Beaufort Water Festival Week.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Trask, 608 Bladen Street, addressed Council regarding the June 20, 2023, Worksession Minutes. He feels that the minutes should be corrected and urged Council not to accept them as written.

V. MINUTES

- A. Worksession- June 20, 2023.

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

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee abstained from the vote.

Minutes approved as presented.

B. Worksession and Regular Meeting - June 27, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance amending the City of Beaufort's Zoning Map regarding Parcel R120 004 000 1007 0000 (1208 Pigeon Point Road), to be zoned from T-5UC to T-4N - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on June 27, 2023. No changes were made since first reading.

Francis Ackerman, 2215 Wilson Drive addressed Council.

Those in favor were Mayor Murray, Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, Councilman Lipsitz and Councilman Mitchell.

Councilman Scallate voted against.

The motion was carried by a vote of 4 - 1.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Authorization to allow the City Manager to enter into a contract for Banking and Treasury Services.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that a Request for Proposal for Banking and Treasury Services was issued by the City. The committee narrowed all candidates down to two. Ameris Bank and South Atlantic Bank. The committee then chose and recommends Ameris Bank for their competitive rates, fee structure, experience working with local governments, and their proven outstanding customer service.

Tyler Frame, Relationship Specialist, with three+one provided a brief presentation to Council on the RFP process and their value calculation based on the submitted proposals.

Daniel Blackmon, 1010 Duke Street, addressed Council.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Request from CAPA and the Exchange Club of Beaufort for Co-Sponsorship to host the 29th Annual Ghost Tours, October 13 - 30, 2023, and request two (2) complimentary parking spaces.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Request from Beaufort Area Hospitality Association to host Beaufort Oyster Festival 5K on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 7:45 am - 9:30 am.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Request from Beaufort County Library for Co-Sponsorship for use of the Henry C. Chambers Park to host Friends of the Beaufort Library Fall Book Sale, November 3 - 5, 2023, request of overnight camping in the park, and fifteen (15) complementary parking spaces.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. Request from The Exchange Club of Beaufort for Co-Sponsorship to host the 2023 Patriot's Day and award ceremony in the Henry C. Chambers Park and ten (10) complimentary parking passes on Monday, September 11, 2023, from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- F. Permission to host the 2023 Beaufort Shrimp Festival and Arts and Crafts Market in the Henry C. Chambers Park, October 6 - 7, 2023, and host the Run Forrest Run 5K/Walk on Saturday, October 7, 2023, and request waivers for the sale of alcohol, open container, public drinking, noise ordinances, street closures and permission for issuance of twenty-five (25) complementary parking passes.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- G. Request to host the 2023 Halloween Celebration in the Henry C. Chambers Park on Saturday, October 21, 2023, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and twenty (20) complimentary parking passes.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- H. Request to host the 2023 Holiday Weekend events to include street closures, and other permissions, December 1 - 3, 2023.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

- I. A resolution to allow the City Manager to enter into agreements with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department to partner in shared service response for Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, Crime Scene Unit and SWAT.

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

Councilman Scallate made a motion to amend the final Whereas Clause, to reflect that the parties have the right to terminate the agreement for convenience upon 30 days written notice to the other parties. This was originally written "upon 60 days written notice to the other parties". Mayor Pro Tem, McFee seconded the motion.

All were in favor on the amended motion.

All were in favor on the main motion, motion carried.

- J. Appointments/Reappointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion for reappointments to the Design Review Board, for Erik Petersen and William Suter. 3-year terms to expire June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion for appointments to the Tourism District Advisory Board, At-Large position, Randy Novick. Hospitality/Lodging to be held by Vimal Desai, and the reappointment of Matt McAlhaney to a Hospitality/Lodging Seat. All are for 3-year terms to expire June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion for reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for Kevin Blank and Marc Sviland. 3-year terms to expire June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee stated that since there were two applicants interviewed today in Worksession for the Historic District Review Board, a decision will be made in the August meeting. He stated that per the Ordinance, the standing members will continue to serve in their capacity.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Reported that there were several events enjoyed by kids and adults alike. Chill with a Cop, Movie Night in the Park and First Friday. Thanked all departments for their efforts.

There will be another CPR class for youth on Saturday, July 29, 2023. This is free and seats are limited. To register call 843-525-7055.

The next Movie Night in the Park will be on July 27, 2023, at the Washington Street Park.

The Police Department is planning an Open House for the public on Saturday, August 5, 2023, beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Fire Department is now operational with Quick Response Vehicles that are staffed with certified paramedics. They will be housed at Central Headquarters and Station 3. The Department currently has 4 certified paramedics.

Excited that our new K-9 officers will be graduating formal training July 28, 2023, and will be officially on duty starting August 4, 2023. You will soon see Officer Sterling Wiren with K-9 Officer Supra, and Officer Mikhail Kopylov with K-9 Officer Jampi.

Reminded all of the upcoming Council Summer Break that will begin after tonight's meetings. The schedule will pick back up on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, with the Code Edit Worksession.

Mayor's Report

Thanked the Town of Port Royal for putting on a wonderful 4th of July Celebration.

Thanked the Police Department for meeting with the Downtown Merchants Association. Heard it was very positive. Also thanked them for Chill with a Cop and Movie Night.

Wished Commodore James Nutt and all the many volunteers a Happy and Successful 67th Water Festival.

On a personal note, he thanked all those that helped his step father in the Food Lion Store when he suffered a heart attack. Especially thanked Tina Koon with CAPA who is CPR certified, and Denise Washington.

Councilman Mitchell

Congratulated Marilyn Harris who was elected as the President and CEO of the Black Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee

Reported that along with the Mayor and Councilman Lipsitz, he attended the Change of Command Ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Station.

Attended a Residential Empowerment Coalition meeting.

Councilman Scallate

Stated that he and his family attended the Movie In the Park, as well as the July 4th fireworks in Port Royal.

Thanked Ivette Burgess and the Human Resources team on the procurement of an Employee Assistance Program.

Councilman Lipsitz

Nothing to report.

Council wished everyone a safe Summer and Happy Water Festival.

IX. ADJOURN

8:25 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 tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.