



City Council Worksession  
Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

August 24, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**5:01PM**

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

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

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. BJWSA water line upgrade in Beaufort**

**Rebecca Bowyer, Director of Engineering with BJWSA**, spoke about the North Street Transmission Main Project and how it will impact the city. The upgrades are needed to improve the flow of water throughout the area. This water main will provide additional capacity and improve water pressure and flow. The new water main is 20 inches in diameter. The overall length of this line is less than a mile, and will impact North, Hamar and Duke Streets, as well as the Spanish Moss Trail. The cost for the work is \$7.5 million. The pipe will be bored underneath Battery Creek and no trees will be cut down. Updates will be sent throughout the project, and construction is expected to be completed July 2022.

**Councilman Cromer** inquired about the noise being produced in the evenings.

**Ms. Bowyer** responded that the work being done at night is only by Beaufort Elementary School. The rest will be done during the day.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, asked about the closing of the Spanish Moss Trail.

**Ms. Bowyer** stated that the trail would only be closed during construction. The estimated time is 9 months, but they are hoping it will be reduced. The section is located between North Street and Robert Smalls Parkway. The closure will not happen until after September 6, 2021.

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**, appreciates the increased communications.

**Andy Kinghorn, City's representative on the BJWSA Board of Directors**, gave background information on the board and their operating procedures. He stated that there are 36 projects taking place at this time in their service area. Some of the pipes being replaced, are over 75 years old. One of the city projects is on Ribaut Road. It is not scheduled until Fiscal Year 2024 or 2025. This will be costly as this line runs down the middle of the road.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, asked about the timeline of the project to put a pipeline under the Beaufort River leading over to Lady's Island to handle population growth.

**Mr. Kinghorn** did not know the answer but stated that type of work is done fairly often.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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#### A. New Business License Ordinance to comply with Standardization Act

**Kathy Todd, Finance Director**, went over the Business License Ordinance sections that were re-written to comply with the new Business License Standardization Act. She reported that the draft was sent off to the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) attorneys for their input. This ordinance repeals Part 7, Chapter 1, Sections 7-1001 through 7-1027, and is being replaced with the 2022 Model Business License Ordinance. She stated that sections from the current ordinance were integrated with the Model Ordinance. She then compared the current rate schedule to the proposed schedule by class.

**Councilman Cromer** asked if we require business licenses for individuals who have an auction, or an estate sale.

**Ms. Todd** answered if it were an individual, then no, it would not be needed. If it were a business doing this type of work, then yes.

**Mayor Murray** inquired why there were three manufacturing line items on Appendix B in two separate places.

**Ms. Todd**, did not know why, as this is a form from MASC. She stated that this was not applicable and is not being recommended.

**Ian Scott, Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO**, thanked the staff and city for moving forward with the Standardization Act. It has been a priority for the Chamber to see a standardization of the business license fees across the state. It will be a time cost savings to many businesses in the area.

**Ms. Todd** stated that the ordinance does acknowledge the fact that the city has their own business license application, but we will also accept the state's application as well. Businesses can continue to pay through the city's portal, or they may pay through the state's website.

### IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding Personnel - Boards and Commissions.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of Legal Advice.
- C. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding the proposed purchase of property.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession 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). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).