



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

September 26, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Acting Mayor Michael A. McFee

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

II. EMPLOYEE NEW HIRE RECOGNITION

A. Police Department.

Dale McDorman, Police Chief, introduced K9 1st Sergeant Jampi and his handler Sergeant Kopylov. He also introduced K9 Sergeant Supra and his handler Officer Wiren.

B. Community and Economic Development Department.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, introduced Ryan Green.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources - South Carolina Oyster Recycling and Enhancement Program.

Michael McFee, Acting Mayor, introduced Holly Sommers, Office of Fisheries Management. Ms. Sommers spoke about the South Carolina Oyster Recycling and Enhancement Program. She said that this is a community based restoration program with many volunteers. She spoke about why Oyster Reefs are so important. Things like water filtration, and they provide extra protection against erosion.

She stated that shells used for these oyster reefs are either recycled or purchased from out of state shucking houses. The reason that they are having to go out of state is that there are no longer shucking houses in South Carolina. They have to purchase shells every year to meet their replanting goals. Sometimes, 50,000 bushels or more.

There are seven public drop off points in Beaufort County for oyster shells, but none of them are located in the City of Beaufort limits. Nearly 3,800 bushels were recycled last year in Beaufort County.

They are proposing to build a bin at the Pigeon Point Boat Landing. It would be a 10 x 10 foot concrete slab with three sides with wooden fencing that is 6 feet tall. It would require minimal staff maintenance and assistance. All costs associated with constructing the bin would be paid by SCDNR. The agreement would continue for a term of one year and will automatically renew each year unless terminated.

Councilman Lipsitz inquired how often the shells would be removed. This would be done on a case by case basis.

Nate Farrow, Public Works Director, stated that Public Works employees are in that area at least once a week and can help monitor the amount of shells in the bin and keep the area organized.

Councilman Mitchell asked if any community feedback had been received.

The following addressed Council:

Kay Merrill, Chair of the Pigeon Point Neighborhood Association
Grant McClure, Coastal Conservation League

Ms. Sommers is open to having a meeting with the Pigeon Point Neighborhood Association to address any concerns.

Michael McFee, Acting Mayor, appreciates the concerns that were addressed. In addition to the meeting with the Neighborhood association, the City will look to see if there are any other potential drop off points.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding Personnel - Boards, Commissions and Committees.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of legal advice regarding litigation.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

V. ADJOURN

7:01 PM

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.