



City Council Regular Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

September 26, 2023

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**7:01 PM**

Acting Mayor Michael A. McFee

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Reverend Bryson Williams with Carteret Street United Methodist Church.

**III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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A. Resolution recognizing the Tides as the Technical College of the Lowcountry official mascot.

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Kay Merrill, 813 Audusta Place, would like to see civility in our community and have everyone deal with change together for the greater good.

Kevin Phillips, 1805 Drayton Drive, wanted to say thank you to all staff and elected officials in the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal. He also extended a thank you to former Mayor Stephen Murray.

Jenny Phillips, 1805 Drayton Drive, gave her deepest thanks as well to staff and elected officials. She also said a thank you to former Mayor Stephen Murray. She hopes whoever fills this spot will understand and continue to advocate for those who want to live and work in the area.

Grant McClure, Coastal Conservation League, thanked former Mayor Stephen Murray for all his work. He will be missed.

**V. MINUTES**

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A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - September 12, 2023.

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

Minutes approved as presented.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

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- A. Ordinance to amend Section 2.8.5; Section 7.2.1; Section 9.1.4; 9.8.2, Development Process Approvals; Section 9.16, Metropolitan Planning Commission reference to amendments and rezoning; Section 10.2.1, Changes to Metropolitan Planning Commission organization, Powers and Duties; Section 10.8.2, Design Review Board, Board Rules and Powers; to stand a City only Planning Commission with the powers of the Design Review Board and to disband the Design Review Board with revisions of the Beaufort Code to reflect said changes - 2nd reading.

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

The following changes are to be made before codification.

Page 26 - 9.8.1, change New Non-Residential Rowhome and Apartment House Development to Administrative Approval Flow Chart.

Page 27 and 49 - replace Design Review Board with Planning Commission.

Page 29 and 50 - replace Design Review Board with Planning Commission.

Page 33 - Item C - change last sentence to "This is required unless the applicant is the City".

Page 34 - under C4 - add the word "to" before City Council.

Daniel Blackmon, 1010 Duke Street addressed Council.

Further discussions will be had on the topic of public notifications that are required for Subdivision review as stated in 9.1.4 Permit/Process Type Table in an upcoming worksession on the Beaufort Code.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

- B. Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an encroachment and easement agreement and other matters related thereto - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on September 12, 2023. No changes have been made since first reading.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

- C. Ordinance to approve a purchase agreement for Lot AA in the Beaufort Commerce Park - 2nd reading.

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

First reading was held on September 12, 2023. No changes have been made since first reading.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

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- A. Request from the Beaufort History Museum to host the New York Highlanders Encampment November 3 - 5, 2023, and request parking spaces and trash cans.

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

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

B. Ordinance to amend the Business License Ordinance to update the Class Schedule - 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that Act 176, the Business License Standardization Act requires every municipality with a business license tax to update their business licensing class schedule every odd numbered year to go into effect the following year.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

C. Authorization for City Manager to enter into a contract for Citywide VoIP Phone System.

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

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that they received 16 sealed proposals. The top three chosen from the selection committee were Segra, Converge Networks and Interdev. The committee determined Converge Networks to be the most responsive Bidder.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

D. Ordinance amending Part 1, Chapter 8, Section 1-8004 of the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances on Elections - 1st reading.

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

Scott Marshall, City Manager, stated the changes being made include adding the associated filing fee amounts, filing periods on special elections, and other details so that an ordinance will not need to be done each time there is an general election, or a special election in the City.

A special meeting will need to be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, to have the second reading.

Graham Trask addressed Council.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

## VIII. REPORTS

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### **City Manager's Report**

Stated that information on the Special Election can be found on the City of Beaufort Website.

Mentioned that the South Coast Cyber Security Collaborative was nominated for the Trailblazer Award at the upcoming Civitas Awards for Business Excellence.

The Shrimp Festival will be held downtown on October 6 - 7, 2023.

Reminded all to remain diligent as Hurricane season is not over.

### **Acting Mayor's Report**

Thanked the public for their latitude of grace while he serves as the Acting Mayor. It is his honor to serve the City.

### **Councilman Mitchell**

Thanked Kay Merrill for her words during public comment.

On October 14, 2023, there will be a rededication at the Walterboro Airport for the Tuskegee Airmen Monument that was previously damaged. The event starts at noon.

### **Councilman Scallate**

Thanked those that attended the meeting tonight.

He attended the Old Commons Neighborhood Association meeting on September 21, 2023.

He will be attending the Northwest Quadrant Association meeting on September 28, 2023.

Looking forward to the Shrimp Festival.

### **Councilman Lipsitz**

Reported he will be selling tickets at the Shrimp Festival.

## **IX. ADJOURN**

**8:03 PM**

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

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.