



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

September 28, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**5:04PM**

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

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

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Charles Lind Brown Community Center Task Force - Presentation of Survey Results.**

**Councilman Mitchell** introduced Ed Allen, the Chairman for the Task Force. Mr. Allen introduced members of the group.

**Mr. Allen** then went over the results of the survey. There were 495 responses. The groups were broken down by age. Ages 0 -18, 19-54 and 55 and up. The groups were Fitness and Sports, Wellness, Tech Classes, Art, Personal Development, Crafts, All of the above, and Other. The top two areas of interest in all age groups were Fitness and Sports, and Wellness.

A few of the other questions asked were if transportation would be needed to get to the center. 91.06% responded no, and if they were asked to pay a yearly fee would they do so and how much. Overall, 61.52% responded yes. 33.23% said they would pay between \$10 and \$20, and 26.35% said they would pay \$30 to \$40 per year.

Some of the recommendations were to adequately staff the center and exploring partnership opportunities throughout the community.

**Councilman Cromer** asked if staffing needs have been identified so an idea can be given to those looking to volunteer.

**Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Administrator**, started off by clarifying that this is a Parks and Recreation Center and not a Community Center. He stated that they are going to staff a Parks and Recreation Facility. Many of the activities being requested do not fall under this category. Anything beyond this will need to be via other partnerships. He suggested a Friends to the Charles Lind Brown Center be set up and enter into an agreement so that they can use the building for these other types of activities.

**Mr. Allen** also stated that this location could be used for the Beaufort Police Movie Club.

**Mayor Murray** inquired about the possible timeline for staffing and the possible Memorandum of Understanding for the Friends Group to be able to utilize the space.

**Mr. Greenway** stated that they have been advertising for personnel. The county cannot support the other activities that are being suggested, so that would have to fall under the Memorandum

of Understanding, and they are willing to work on this should the Task Force wish to pursue this avenue.

B. Present synopsis of public comments - 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update.

**Dan Frazier, Senior Planner, Community and Economic Development Department**, went over the timeline again for the Comprehensive Plan. He then gave an overview of the public input comments document that was sent out to council. He showed the process used to group the comments in each section. The sections are Uniqueness, Growth, Housing, Economic Development, Livability and Resilience. This was accomplished by using key words from the comments in each section. Some of the comments were read. There were 334 individual responses.

Some of the takeaways from the comments are that the public wants diversity, more economic opportunities, and affordable housing and housing options.

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, stated that our Comprehensive Plan will be tied to our Strategic Plan.

C. Update regarding the Educational Program for Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).

**Bill Prokop, City Manager**, spoke about the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) that is on the ballot this November 2, 2021. This is a 1 cent sales tax that would reduce property taxes and provide additional revenues to municipalities. 71% will go back to the residents through their taxes and 29% are allocated directly to local governments. Beaufort County currently has a 7% sales tax. 1% is from the Transportation Tax that is due to come off December 31, 2021. With the passing of this Local Option Sales Tax, the rate would remain at 7%. There would be no increase. A large portion of this tax would be paid by visitors and tourists.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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A. Discussion with TDAC on FY 2022 ATAX Grant recommendations.

**Vimal Desai, Chairman of the Tourism Development Advisory Committee**, went over the committee's recommendations of the Accommodations Tax (ATAX) money and how they wish to see it allocated. The total amount is \$183,135.66. Breakdown of the allocations are:

Greater Beaufort - Port Royal CVB	\$150,000.00
SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission	\$ 15,000.00
Beaufort Sports Council	\$ 12,731.21
Port Royal Sound Foundation	\$ 3,750.00
Historic Beaufort Foundation	\$ 1,000.00
Friends of Spanish Moss Trail	\$ 654.45

### IV. ADJOURN

6:49 PM

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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).