



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

October 10, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01 PM

Michael A. McFee, Acting Mayor

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

II. EMPLOYEE NEW HIRE RECOGNITION

A. Downtown Operations and Community Services.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, introduced Sarah Sutton.

B. Fire Department.

Tim Ogden, Fire Chief, introduced Joel Nicolas and Kerry Sewell.

C. Police Department.

Dale McDorman, Police Chief, introduced Coley Hebrard, and Susan Luna.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Northern Beaufort County Transit Study.

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director with the Lowcountry Council of Governments, started off by stating that they are staffed to the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study. She mentioned that federal dollars flow through the Metropolitan Planning Organization for our region. One thing that the MPO is responsible for is creating a Long Range Transportation Plan which is a 20 year vision for the region. The Northern Beaufort County Transit Study was one of the top priority items. She expressed that Palmetto Breeze is looking to expand its services into the rural portion of their service area.

Federal monies require an 80/20 split. 80 percent is paid by the Federal Government and the remaining 20 percent would come from the local municipalities. They are asking the City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal to each pay \$12,500.00. They are asking Beaufort County to pay the remaining balance of \$25,000.00. The total cost of the project is \$250,000.00.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be brought before Council for formal action.

B. Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Wayfinding Initiative.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, introduced Steven Kidd, Acting Superintendent of the Reconstruction Era.

Mr. Kidd started off by saying that they have undertaken a plan to add wayfinding signs to direct visitors to their sites and other locations throughout the area. He went over the various signs, what they would look like, and where they would like for them to be placed. They are in the process of determining if any Right-of-Way permits will be necessary.

Acting Mayor McFee stated that any signs within the Historic District would need to go in front of the Historic District Review Board. Mr. Kidd stated that many of these are not stand alone new signs. They are trying to co-locate them on signs/poles that already exist.

They are in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) regarding the signs that will go out by Interstate 95 and on the State Roads leading into Beaufort.

Mr. Marshall mentioned that the signs that have “Long Term Parking” are not appropriate as that implies you can stay parked over a period of time/days, and that is not allowed.

Councilman Mitchell would like to see the Robert Smalls House mentioned on some of these signs before they are finalized.

Mr. Marshall reported that the First African Baptist Church of Beaufort should also be included.

The following addressed Council:

Cynthia Jenkins, Executive Director, Historic Beaufort Foundation
Dianne Farrelly - 2415 Oak Haven Street

IV. DISCUSSIONS

A. Tourism Development Advisory Committee State Accommodations Tax Grant Award recommendations.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, stated that this year, the total funds available are \$379,849.00. There were 13 entities that requested a total of \$489,680.66. The Committee’s recommendations total \$379,410.66.

Henry Brandt, Chetan Patel and Randy Novick were present from TDAC and went over the recommendations, how they scored the applicants, the reasons behind the scores, and the amounts they felt were appropriate. The State regulates what you can spend Accommodations Tax (ATAX) monies on.

Council expressed their individual concerns regarding these allocations with the Committee.

The following addressed the Committee members and Council:

Phil Cromer
Graham Trask
Denise Bullitt
Anita Singleton Prather
Rufus Pinckney
Alvesta Robertson

V. ADJOURN

6:36 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.