



City of Beaufort Special/Private Events Policies and Procedures

Introduction

The City of Beaufort's Special Event Policy is designed to standardize events held in the community so they are executed with the safety and health of the participants, the protection of public property, and the impact on non-participating citizens taken into account.

The City of Beaufort is committed to ensuring that all events within the City limits are appropriately governed by rules, regulations, and ordinances, and do not violate federal or state laws or regulations. It is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure these guidelines are followed.

Overview

Individuals, organizations, and agencies wishing to conduct public gatherings on City property and public rights of way must obtain approval in advance through the City of Beaufort. Events as outlined below require City approval and oversight if they are to occur on city property or public roadways.

The Special Events Committee, comprised of City of Beaufort department representatives, will review your application for compliance with City guidelines. The required signature on the Waterfront Park application will assume that the event organizer for the event has read this document and will abide by what has been stated in this document.

The City does not currently charge an application fee, but reserves the right to add a fee in the future.

NOTE: No Special Event application or permit is required for events held on private property, unless it involves the closing of streets or the need for City services. However, there may be a requirement for other permits such as: tent permits (cooking tents and other tents over 200 square feet), zoning compliance, sign permits, etc.

Please contact the Linda Roper at (843) 525-7084 or e-mail her at lroper@cityofbeaufort.org for information on additional permitting requirements.

Event Criteria

The City of Beaufort encourages events that educate and expose the public to a range of diverse and rich cultural experiences. Events that contribute economic and social benefits to the community, including those that promote tourism, showcase local talent, invigorate community spirit and revitalize neighborhoods are aligned with City goals. However, keep in mind that the acceptance of this application does not imply automatic approval of your event.

Organizers of all events being held at City Facilities must contact appropriate City staff to arrange for facility rental prior to submitting special event application.

City-sponsored events will take priority in use of any city property or public rights of way. Events which have been held the previous year take priority over newer applicants for the same time and location upon the condition that prior year events have satisfied all financial obligations to the City. This right is revoked if the established event previously failed to comply with guidelines set forth in the Special Event Policy and Memorandum of Understanding.

Items considered in the review process include, but are not limited to:

- General risk to health, safety and welfare to the participants in the event and to the citizens of Beaufort
- Compliance with applicable city, state and federal laws
- Whether the event supports the City's strategic goals and public purpose objectives
- Nature of the event, and how it will serve the community of Beaufort
- Availability of similar facilities provided by private sector enterprises
- Whether the event will generate positive media exposure for the community
- Impact of event on neighboring residents and properties
- Impact and/or cost of the event on City property, support services and holiday schedules
- Risk posed to the City due to the nature of the event
- Impact upon non-participating citizens
- Compatibility of event with requested location
- Dates and times during which the event will occur
- Number of participants
- Parking availability
- Adequacy of adult supervision for minors
- Frequency of the event or similar event(s)
- Past compliance with Special Event Policy

There may be other factors taken into consideration in determining whether or not the event is appropriate for the City of Beaufort.

Compensation for City Staffing

Applicant may be required to hire off-duty City of Beaufort staff to provide service. Approval to waive these fees will be at the discretion of the City Manager.

Event Types

Neighborhood Block Party

A Neighborhood Block Party is an outdoor public party organized by the residents of a neighborhood using sidewalks/streets requiring no city services. A Neighborhood Block Party does not require the completion of the full special events application. However, in the interest of public safety, you must submit a letter of request in writing to the City Manager's Office at least 45 days prior to the proposed event date for consideration and/or approval. Any street closure request will go to City Council for consideration and/or approval, however final street approval will come from South Carolina Department of Transportation. Please keep in mind, all neighbors that would be affected by the request must be on board with the proposal.

City Facilities

Event coordinators requesting to hold events at City of Beaufort facilities should first contact the City Manager's Office. Events held in parks and recreation facilities must follow all guidelines and regulations set forth in the City of Beaufort Special Events Policy. These guidelines may restrict available time for some events and prohibit some events entirely. All rental fees for the use of City facilities must be paid in full 45 days prior to the event date unless other arrangements are approved by the City Manager.

Special Event Approval Process

In order to quickly and efficiently review each Special Event request submitted for approval, the City has developed the following special events approval process.

Step 1: Submit Special Event Application

The event organizer of a special event submits the Special Event Application, i.e. Waterfront Park Application, Street Closure etc., detailing the event and specific needs for City services (trash cans, police, park facilities, event set up/clean up, etc.). Depending on the type of event, more detail will be required. A checklist is included in the application to ensure all necessary information is provided.

Please send the application to:

Municipal Court
Attention: Linda Roper
1901 Boundary Street
Telephone: (843) 525-7084
Fax: (843) 986-5602
lroper@cityofbeaufort.org

Step 2: Application Review

Completed Special Event Applications (Waterfront Park Application) will be reviewed by the Special Events Coordinator and Committee, which consists of representatives from the appropriate City departments. During the review process, the Committee will work with the

event organizer to discuss any questions and/or changes that may arise in order to complete the review process in a timely manner. In some cases, approval from the City Manager's office may be required.

Step 3: Meeting with Event Organizer and City Staff

During this time City Staff will work with the event organizer to discuss in detail the event proposed, discuss expectations, ask for necessary documents etc. In some cases, approval from the City Council or the City Manager's office may be required.

Guidelines and Considerations

1. In order to ensure the protection of the City of Beaufort, its businesses, and citizens, the City of Beaufort may refuse an application, or require alterations to an approved application.
2. Event times may be changed at the sole discretion of the City due to weather, infrastructure requirements, and repairs to utilities, participant behavior, and other considerations of safety for persons, property and good public order. For the same reasons, approval may require additional conditions, dates, locations, and time limitations.
3. Except as provided by law, the City of Beaufort and South Carolina Department of Transportation is under no obligation to issue permits for the use of its streets, sidewalks, plazas, buildings, parks, and other facilities for special events.
4. If blocking a street is necessary, the event coordinator must provide public notification to all businesses and residents affected by the event no less than five (5) business days before the event. A list of downtown businesses and residents is available upon request.
5. Any misrepresentation in an application submitted to the City of Beaufort or deviation from the final terms and conditions described on the application or on the Memorandum of Understanding may result in immediate revocation of approval or closure of event.
6. If you are given approval by the City for your event, you will be subject to all City, State, and Federal laws and regulations as they apply to the event. Failure to comply will result in revocation of approval or closure of event.
7. Event organizers will be responsible for ensuring vendors comply with all South Carolina taxing requirements and SCDHEC food safety regulations.

Safety and Security

Police officers may be required to provide traffic and crowd control and on-site security. The Police Department will determine the number of officers needed. Once that information is established, the event applicant will be responsible for contracting with the Beaufort Police Department at the current off-duty hourly rate. Please contact the Beaufort Police Department at (843) 322-7955 to make arrangements. Event organizers will be invoiced after the off-duty officers have completed their event service.

In the event of a road closure, the event organizer is responsible for securing approval to close roads from City Council with final approval from South Carolina Department of Transportation. Initial request is due to the City Manager's office 45 days prior to event

date. If City Council and SCDOT approve, final arrangements will have to be made with the Beaufort Police Department. Please contact the Beaufort Police Department at (843) 322-7955 for contract services.

Provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) may be required where there is potential risk to participants, officials, or the public. Accordingly, a first-aid or emergency services plan is required to be included in the Special Event Application.

Event organizers and participants are expected to abide by all federal, state and local codes and regulations. With respect to general safety, OSHA guidelines must be followed and setup is subject to inspection by the City of Beaufort.

Discrimination

Events held on City property and public rights of way must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status or disability.

Liability Insurance

The City of Beaufort requires that any organization/group sponsoring any event at a City owned facility/property or right of way provide the City of Beaufort with evidence of insurance as outlined below.

General Liability, Auto Liability and Workers' Compensation, as follows:

- \$500,000.00 minimum requirement per occurrence for General Liability and Auto Liability (**depending on the size or type of event, this amount may increase**)
- SC State Statutory limits for Workers' Compensation

A certification of insurance (ACORD) form may be used to submit this information to the City. This form must be submitted to the City Events Coordinator at least 10 business days prior to the event naming the City of Beaufort as additional insured. For questions or additional information, please contact the City Events Coordinator at 843-525-6348.

Amusement rides are not permitted. Inflatable play equipment requires additional insurance, licensing and inspection which must also be submitted to the City Events Coordinator a minimum of 14 days prior to the event. The company providing the rides/inflatables will need to provide the City of Beaufort with evidence of insurance as outlined below:

- \$1,000,000 minimum requirement per occurrence (depending on the size of the event or type of rides, this amount may increase)
- The City of Beaufort must be listed as an additional insured on the coverage certificate.

Applicant must contact the City's Building Codes office at (843)-525-7040 for electrical approval and compliance with City adopted codes. For questions regarding the insurance requirements, contact the City Manager's office at (843)-525-7070

If alcohol is served at your event, specific approval must be obtained by the City Manager and liquor liability insurance coverage is required with a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence in coverage. The City of Beaufort must be listed as insured on the policy. If you have questions about the required liquor liability insurance coverage and listing the City as an additional insured, please contact the City Manager's office at (843)-525-7070.

City of Beaufort does not provide nor obtain insurance coverage for any special events. It is the responsibility of the event organizer to obtain and pay for proper insurance coverage.

Permits and Licensing

Please contact the Beaufort Planning Department at (843)-525-7011 for additional information on permitting and inspections.

Signs

Per section 7.2 of the Zoning Ordinance, one temporary banner may be permitted per street frontage of a special event site during the special event permit period with a maximum size of thirty-two square feet.

Event signs may not be displayed in the public right-of-way or off-site of the event. Drilling into pavement (parking lots, streets, sidewalks, curbs, etc.) is strictly prohibited. All signage must be placed on premises of special event location. Free standing temporary signs cannot exceed 6 feet in height, unless they are flush mounted to the wall of a building. Signs cannot be attached to trees, street signs or utility poles. Pylon or pole-mounted freestanding signs are prohibited.

Tents

All tents used for cooking and other tents over 200 square feet require a tent permit. Contact City's Building Codes at (843) 525-7049 for information on the tent permit application process. For information on cooking tent regulations, contact the Beaufort Fire Department at (843) 322-7915.

Alcohol

It is illegal to serve or sell beer, wine or liquor on any City Streets unless a special SC Temporary Beer and Wine Permit is obtained for alcohol sales. Securing a SC Temporary Beer and Wine Permit takes a minimum of 30 days. Contact SC Department of Revenue and Taxation at 803-734-1401 for information regarding the regulations relating to the permitting process.

Business License for a Private Event.

In order to conduct business in the City of Beaufort, the organizers must obtain a City of Beaufort business license through the Business License department located at City Hall. The Organizer shall be responsible to ensure that all vendors hired to support the Organizer's event also have a City of Beaufort Business License. This includes but not limited to caterers; food or craft sellers; tent, table and chair rentals; florists and musicians. The Organizer will be held financially responsible for any vendor found not to have a valid

business license. Festival Business Licensing – A group License can be obtained. For questions or additional information, please call 843-525-7025.

The City will assist the event organizer of a private event in fulfilling its obligation to ensure that all vendors involved in a private event comply with the City’s Business License requirements. To do so, the organizer is requested to provide the City with a listing of all vendors that will be involved in the event. All vendors are covered under the Liability Umbrella Insurance and must be stated as such on the Certificate of Liability insurance provided to the City of Beaufort.

In February 2016, the Beaufort City Council adopted an ordinance amending the section relating to the licensing of group events. The new rule allows an event organizer to buy and secure an umbrella business license to cover all the participating vendors - rather than each vendor needing to obtain an individual business license for the event or festival. Group business license application form can be found at: <http://www.cityofbeaufort.org/group-events-business-license.aspx>

The amended ordinance exempts public market and short-term vendors.

The group event business license fee is based on the anticipated number of participating merchants/vendors:

Tier I	from 1-5 merchants	\$200
Tier II	from 6-10 merchants	\$400
Tier III	from 11-15 merchants	\$600
Tier IV	more than 15 merchants	\$1,000

Fireworks Permit

The company providing pyrotechnic service must submit an application to the State of South Carolina for a State Fireworks permit and provide a copy to the Beaufort Fire Department at (843) 525-7915 at least 30 days prior to the event.

Road Closure

In the event of a road closure, the event organizer is responsible for securing approval to close roads from the City Manager’s office. Final approval for all street closures is under the preview of the SCDOT.

Vendor and Food Sales- Private Event

In accordance with provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, it is the City’s policy to allow the sale of food, beverages and event-related merchandise on City-owned or City-controlled property during special events. When using City facilities, vendor fees may apply. Please contact the City Events Coordinator at 843-525-7084 or by email at lroper@cityofbeaufort.org for more information.

The event organizer is responsible for procuring vendors for the event, and must provide to the City a list of food and beverage vendors and event-related merchandise that will be sold during the event, as well as any electric or water needs for each vendor. The Event Organizer must also provide a diagram showing the proposed location of each vendor. The City requires this information 10 business days prior to the event. The City reserves the right to exclude any vendor from using City facilities which in its sole discretion is selling a product or service which is contrary to the safety, health or welfare of the public. The City also reserves the right to modify the proposed location of any vendor.

State admissions, sales and other taxes may apply for vendors. Please contact the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 803-324-7641 for information on applicable taxes and reporting procedures. SC Revenue Officers will check to verify that vendors have secured business licenses as required by South Carolina law. Contact the SC Department of Revenue with your vendor list 10 business days prior to the event.

The event organizer is responsible for notifying all food vendors they are required by Beaufort Fire Department to have the appropriately rated fire extinguisher that is easily accessible, fully operational, and professionally serviced and tagged within 365 days of the day of the event. In addition, open flame cooking under a tent or within 20 feet of another tent is prohibited in the City of Beaufort. Contact the Beaufort Fire Department at 843-322-7915 with questions regarding fire safety requirements.

In addition, the event organizer is responsible for making sure all food vendors meet South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) regulations. For additional information on these regulations, contact SCDHEC at 843-846-1030 or visit their website at <http://www.scdhec.gov/food>.

The Event Organizer is responsible for the proper containment and disposal of all cooking oil, grease, charcoal and other products used in the preparation of food. Under no circumstances shall any vendor dispose of such products by dumping them into storm drains, in parking lots, upon grass, in flower beds, in waterways, in restrooms or in any other place that risks causing damage to either the environment or property. The Event Organizer shall be held strictly liable for the actions of all its vendors and concessioners. The Event Organizer will hold the City harmless for all fines and penalties imposed upon the City for environmental damage or prohibited practices.

Alcohol Sales and Consumption

It is illegal to serve or sell beer, wine or liquor on any City Streets unless a special SC Temporary Beer and Wine Permit is obtained for alcohol sales. **Securing a SC Temporary Beer and Wine Permit takes a minimum of 30 days.** Contact SC Department of Revenue and Taxation at 803-734-1401 for information regarding the regulations relating to the permitting process. Alcohol sales and consumption at the event will affect the number of police officers needed.

All events serving or selling alcohol will be required to serve or sell a non-alcohol beverage alternative. The following items must be posted at the sale location:

- SC Temporary Permit
- Sign stating “We reserve the right to re-check ID.”
- Sign with serving hours and last call time

If alcohol is served at your event, liquor liability insurance coverage is required with a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence in coverage. The City of Beaufort must be listed as insured on the policy. If you have questions about the required liquor liability insurance coverage and listing the City as an additional insured, please contact the Planning Department at (843) 525-7011.

Signs, Tents and Temporary Structures

The use of signs, large tents or other temporary structures may require a separate permit from the City of Beaufort.

All signage and anchoring of tents or canopies must be accomplished using weights such as sandbags or concrete or water filled barrels.

Please contact the Beaufort Planning and Development Department at 843-525-7011 for clarification on permitting and inspections.

Care of Property and Equipment

All property and equipment belonging to the City, including but not limited to vehicles, roads, buildings and landscaping located within and around the event is to be handled by the applicant and its invitees with reasonable and due care. Cleanup of public property will be held to the standards set by the City of Beaufort. The applicant shall assume complete and absolute liability for any loss and damage to the City property and/or equipment, which may result from any misuse or mistreatment of the property or equipment during the event, even if the applicant did not cause the damage or loss. The event must not have a negative physical or economic impact on surrounding property.

Noise Ordinance

Permission to include music or amplified sound, including megaphones, as part of a special event may be given. A request for a noise waiver can be submitted to the City Manager’s Office. Final approval will be given by City Council. The City reserves the right to limit the sound amplification equipment so that it will not unreasonably disturb non-participating persons around the event. Complaints of loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise can result in the immediate revocation of your approval or closure of the event if appropriate adjustments are not met.

Performing Rights and Licenses

The event organizer is solely responsible for all contracts and agreements. The City of Beaufort has no responsibility for any performances or their contract and agreements connected with the event, unless exempted by the City Manager and specified in the Memorandum of Understanding.