



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 6:00 PM Monday, November 08, 2021 - Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk, called roll.

PRESENT

Mayor Newton
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Harker
Commissioner Hagle
Commissioner Hollinshed

Mayor Newton confirmed that everyone was using the updated agenda and announced a change to an item on the agenda. He said that it was brought to their attention, there may be some older documents that could influence the Wastewater Treatment Capacity & Allocation Update, so it has been asked that it be taken off the agenda while the older documents are reviewed.

Commissioner McDonald resolved his connection issues and join the meeting with both audio and video.

Agenda Approval

Mayor Newton asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of the number two item, under items for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the agenda.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was none.

Manager Report

John Day, Town Manager, expressed his appreciation to the members of the Beaufort Fire Department who worked extremely hard in preparation 9S Inspection, through the office of the State Fire Marshall, which was part of the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating process. Mr. Day said they do not yet know what rating they will receive but reported they did pass the 9S portion of it and congratulated thanked the Fire Department staff for all the hard work they did throughout the process. Mr. Day welcomed new employee, Laurel Anderson to the Town and said she was the Administrative Support Specialist for Planning & Inspections. Mr. Day said all the positions in Planning & Inspections had been filled and they were glad to have that department fully staffed. Mr. Day ended his presentation by reporting the Shackleford Landing PUD developer had withdrawn the application from consideration and is considering another approach for the future. Mr. Day said he was happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Newton went down the roster for questions.

Commissioner Hagle asked if there were any updates on the hybrid equipment for the Train Depot.

Mr. Day said he had not received any new updates.

Commissioner Hagle asked if it was still expected at the end of December.

Mr. Day said correct.

Commissioner Hagle asked how long it would take to install the equipment.

Mr. Day said he would follow up with the company to make sure they were on the top of their schedule for installation once the equipment is received.

Commissioner Hagle said that was his next question, thank you.

Mr. Day said you are welcome.

Commissioner Hollinshed had no questions.

Commissioner McDonald had no questions.

Commissioner Harker had no questions.

Commissioner Carter had no questions.

Items of Consent

1. May 10 & September 13, 2021 Minutes
2. October 11, 2021 Minutes
3. 2022 BOC Meeting Dates
4. FY 2022 Budget Amendment 4

Mayor Newton asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the consent items.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. COVID Numbers in Carteret County and Emergency Leave Policy Extension

Mayor Newton reported the numbers had decreased in Carteret County and said the school system had gone to a mask optional mode. Mayor Newton asked if there was any issue with retaining the Emergency Leave Policy Extension.

Commissioner Hagle said retain it like it is.

Commissioner Hollinshed said yes, retain it.

Commissioner McDonald said retain it.

Commissioner Harker said she had no problem with retaining it.

Commissioner Carter said keep it like it is.

2. Wastewater Treatment Capacity & Allocation Update

Item was removed from the agenda.

3. Christmas Parade

Rachel Johnson, Parks & Events Coordinator/Public Information Officer, said that the Beaufort Development Association has submitted an application to host the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 4th at 1:00 pm, following the traditional route up Front Street, and the board's approval is needed.

Mayor Newton asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Hagle had no questions.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she had no questions and was glad to see it coming back.

Commissioner McDonald had no questions.

Commissioner Harker had no questions.

Commissioner Carter had no questions.

Mayor Newton asked what the pleasure of the board was.

Commissioner Hagle made a motion to approve the event.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter.

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Capital Project Ordinances - American Rescue Plan Act

Christi Wood, Finance Director, explained the two Capital Project Ordinances before the board, these are in relation to the work that is planning to be done with the American Rescue Plan Funds. She said the two ordinances include Stormwater & Equipment and Utilities, funds totaling \$1,418,841.02. Ms. Wood explained the Stormwater work was \$60,000; Water Treatment Plant Site Evaluation and Purchase was \$500,000; Sewer Pump Station #7 was \$740,000; and the audio-visual equipment update at the Train Depot for \$20,000. She said there was \$98,000 that has not been budgeted to date, but staff recommends that it be budgeted into the governmental project fund to be used for future projects that are approved with grant funding.

Mayor Newton asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Hagle had no questions.

Commissioner Hollinshed had no questions.

Commissioner McDonald had no questions.

Commissioner Harker had no questions.

Commissioner Carter had no questions.

Mayor Newton asked what the pleasure of the board was.

Commissioner Harker made a motion to approve the ordinances.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hagle thanked the Fire Department for their good work and successful completion of the State inspections, and he welcomed the new employee to the Town. He said it was great to see the continuous improvements on the streets and various projects going on. He ended with a few safety messages; be careful

when you are out and about and walking around, as there are many branches other debris from recent high winds that could cause a fall. He said falls were one of the leading causes of non-fatal injuries in the U.S.; to make your home safer inside, also look for tripping hazards such as cords or other items. He also reminded everyone to focus on their driving, do not be distracted, as there are about 40,000 deaths in the U.S. annually due to traffic accidents.

Commissioner Hollinshed said she was notified that there were several cars on Ann Street who were parked across from the "no parking" zone that were ticketed over the weekend. She said she had not investigated it with the Police Department, but it had been a tradition to park across the street from churches, all three of them within the two blocks. She asked for a comment on it, please.

Paul Burdette, Chief of Police, said that it had been addressed with the officer and apologized for the miscommunication; he said that the issues brought to their attention have been resolved.

Commissioner Hollinshed said if that was going to be the policy moving forward, it would be nice to have a heads up on it, thank you.

Commissioner McDonald said he would like to take this opportunity to say to the newly elected Mayor and two Commissioners, they ran an excellent campaign. He said that he had looked forward to working with a new Commissioner and Mayor, however the citizens of Beaufort did not see it that way, but we must move forward, and we must do the right thing. He ended by saying he would do his part in anything he could to help the Town of Beaufort and the citizens of Beaufort.

Commissioner Harker congratulated the Fire Department in passing their inspections and welcomed Laurel Anderson on board, saying it is always good to have a new staff member come on to help make the Town's services great. She said she was looking forward to the Christmas Parade and would like to thank in advance the many staff members who participate and volunteer to help make the Christmas Parade a success, she said these people come in on their days off and she just wanted to let them know it does not go unnoticed. Commissioner Harker said there was a great turn out during the election cycle, with many voters coming out to vote for the leaders they felt would best represent the Town as a whole. She said she was humbled and honored to be elected as Mayor, and she takes the job with great seriousness; being the first African American to serve in the Town's 308-year history is a historic moment, and one she will cherish for the rest of her life. She also said she wanted to congratulate the two new Commissioners that will be coming on board: Charles "Bucky" Oliver and Melvin Cooper. She said she looks forward to seeing who will take her place. She ended by saying she will cherish the time she has spent with Commissioner McDonald, as she stands on the shoulders of his greatest, because without his leadership she would not be here.

Commissioner Carter congratulated the winners of the election and said she looked forward to them picking up the load and carrying it on; she said she thought they would do it quite well. She said they had not received any information about the disposition of the water bills and asked when they would be getting something.

Mr. Day said they would be getting it in a day or two.

Commissioner Carter said they needed to make some decisions on that.

Mr. Day said it would be put on the agenda for the work session.

Mayor Newton said he would like to echo the congratulations to the newly elected officials. He thanked the Board of Elections, and referenced Caitlin Sabadish's leadership, as well as all the volunteers, who do such a great job during the election times.

Adjourn

Mayor Newton asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Hagle made the motion.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Hagle, Commissioner Hollinshed, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Harker, Commissioner Carter.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Mayor, Sharon Harker

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk