



Town of Beaufort, NC
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Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
6:00 PM Monday, February 10, 2025
Train Depot, 614 Broad Street

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Harker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited all to join in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk, called the roll.

PRESENT:

Mayor Harker
Mayor Pro Tem Cooper
Commissioner Gillikin
Commissioner LoPiccolo
Commissioner Oliver

ABSENT:

Commissioner Spiegler

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

1. Proclamation Recognizing Art Month & Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Arts Council of Carteret County

Mayor Harker presented the following:

***WHEREAS**, the Arts Council of Carteret County is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, and has flourished into an approximately 200-member non-profit organization comprising artists and art supporters; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Council's annual flagship event, "Art from the Heart," now in its commendable 35th year, is a testament to its inclusive principal, offering a non-juried platform for a diverse cohort of adults and students to showcase their artistic creations to the public, thereby enriching the cultural fabric of our community; and*

WHEREAS, this esteemed Council has steadfastly pursued its mission to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive community through unwavering support for diverse artistic genres and a strong commitment to arts education, recognizing the indispensable role of the arts in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students; and

WHEREAS, the growing public interest in the arts and arts-related enterprises in the Town of Beaufort reflects a growing appreciation for the cultural and economic value of the arts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Sharon E. Harker, do hereby proclaim the month of February as **ART MONTH** in Beaufort, North Carolina. In doing so, I urge all residents to acknowledge and participate in the various artistic activities and events that celebrate the vibrant art community fostered by our citizens and the Arts Council of Carteret County. Let us embrace this month as a time to recognize and appreciate the vital role of the arts in enriching our lives and enhancing the cultural heritage of our beloved town.

Duly adopted this 10th day of February 2025.

2. NCLM Law Enforcement Risk Review Process

Joe Graziano with the North Carolina League of Municipalities recognized the Beaufort Police Department for successfully completing the Law Enforcement Risk Management Review. This was done by proactively serving the community in a professional manner while taking steps to minimize risk to Beaufort's citizens.

Items of Consent

1. Meeting Minutes- January 13, 2025
2. FY 26 Budget Calendar
3. Resolution Regarding SB 382
4. NCDOT Agreement (Project U-6057)

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the Items of Consent.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

1. Voluntary Annexation- 138 Chadwick Rd

Commissioner Gillikin made a motion to open the public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

Jessica Kocher, applicant and property owner spoke on her excitement to join the Beaufort city limits and have utility service. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for their consideration of the voluntary annexation request.

There were no additional comments from the public.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to close the public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gillikin made a motion to adopt the draft annexation ordinance included in the meeting packet, which references extending the Town's corporate limits to include 138 Chadwick Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Beaufort Waterfront Operations and Finance Committee Update

Commissioner Gillikin provided an update from the committee. She noted the applicants who responded to the Fuel Farm RFP were recently interviewed. She shared the Marina Management RFP was still active.

Mr. Burgess said there were four interviews conducted, and the interview committee had narrowed it down to the top two. He said they hoped to have some type of contract document in process in the next week or so and the goal would be to get it before the Board of Commissioners by their March 10th Regular Meeting.

Public Comment

Rusty Quate: 119 Gallants Point Rd, Beaufort, NC 28516

Mr. Quate spoke on the Maritime Museum construction project that is taking place at Gallants Channel. He noted that he was not opposed to the project but did want to bring some attention to the landscaping issues that were taking place. He shared that many Live Oak trees were being bulldozed. He questioned whether there was a representative from the Town of Beaufort that meets with state agencies during monthly construction meetings. He expressed concerns related to tree line protection. He also shared that the road going into the construction site was a disaster, specifically with potholes and mud. He suggested the construction site was also a liability, due to unobstructed pedestrian access.

New Business

1. Volunteer Board Appointments

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to open the floor for Board of Adjustment nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cooper nominated Wendi Oliver.

Commissioner LoPiccolo nominated Joseph Provenzano.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to close the floor for Board of Adjustment nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

By acclamation, Wendi Oliver and Joseph Provenzano were appointed to the Board of Adjustment to each serve a 3-year term.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to open the floor for Historic Preservation Commission nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner LoPiccolo nominated Joyce McCune.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to close the floor for Historic Preservation Commission nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

By acclamation, Joyce McCune was re-appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission to serve a 3-year term.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to open the floor for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Oliver nominated Lora Fasolino.

Commissioner Cooper nominated Taylor McCune.

Commissioner Oliver made a motion to close the floor for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

By acclamation, Lora Fasolino and Taylor McCune were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to both serve a 4-year term.

Commissioner Gillikin made a motion to open the floor for Planning Board nominations.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gillikin nominated Tammy Hunsucker.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to close the public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

By acclamation, Tammy Hunsucker was appointed to the Planning Board to serve a 3-year term.

Manager Report

Mr. Burgess thanked staff and the Board for a successful annual retreat.

Sam Bell, Town Engineer, shared with excitement that Beaufort had been selected to move forward with the BRIC grant application.

Mayor/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner LoPiccolo shared that the recent Board of Commissioner's Retreat was great and commented on Beaufort's bright future.

Commissioner Gillikin acknowledged the significance of the loss of the Ward Hancock House and encouraged Town leaders to be mindful of their role in similar future situations.

Commissioner Cooper also commented on the success of the recent retreat. He encouraged residents to attend next year. He thanked all the volunteer board applicants and encouraged them to get involved by attending the various meetings.

Mayor Harker spoke of Beaufort's bright future and thanked those who applied to be on the Town's volunteer boards. She announced that Beaufort would welcome a new Town Manager, Matt Zapp, in the next few months.

Adjourn

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Sharon E. Harker, Mayor

Elizabeth Lewis, Town Clerk