



State 2% ATAX Committee

Beaufort County, SC

BEAUFORT LIBRARY

311 Scott Street

Beaufort, SC 29902

Monday, October 6, 2025

10:00 AM

AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN

DICK STEWART

ANITA SINGLETON-PRATHER

KEN GUERRA, VICE-CHAIR

STEVEN GREEN

MARIE GIBBS

1. CALL TO ORDER: VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOIA VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 23, 2025 VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
5. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF GRANT AWARDS - *COMMITTEE MEMBERS*
6. ADJOURNMENT

**TO WATCH COMMITTEE OR COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS OR FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF AGENDAS AND BACKUP PACKAGES, PLEASE VISIT:**

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>



State 2% ATAX Committee Beaufort County, SC

Burton Wells Recreation Center
1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Beaufort, SC 29906

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025
8:30 AM**

AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
DICK STEWART
ANITA SINGLETON-PRATHER**

**KEN GUERRA, VICE-CHAIR
STEVEN GREEN
MARIE GIBBS**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Present:

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra
Committee Member Anita Singleton-Prather
Committee Member Marie Gibbs
Committee Member Steven Green
Committee Member Dick Stewart

Absent:

Committee Chair Vimal Desai

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra led the pledge of Allegiance.

3. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOIA**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra confirmed compliance with FOIA.

4. **MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

Motion: Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra made a motion to modify the agenda to add the nomination of a committee member to serve as the liaison to the Local A-Tax committee, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: Committee Member Anita Prather-Singleton made a motion to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

6. NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE LIAISON TO LOCAL A-TAX COMMITTEE

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

Motion: Committee Member Steven Green made a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2025, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

8. PRESENTATIONS BY GRANT APPLICANTS

9. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF GRANT AWARDS

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm.

2025-2026 State 2% Accommodations Tax Grant Presentation Schedule
9/23/25

| # | Time: | Committee Member | Organization | Event/Project Title | Event Date | Location of Event/Project | Submitter First Name | Submitter Last Name | Requested Amount | Received 2024 | Received 2023 |
|----|---------------|-------------------|---|--|------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 9:00:00 AM | DESAI | Arts Center of Coastal Carolina | Tourism Destination Marketing Support | 2026 | Arts Center of Coastal Carolina - HHI | Janet | Smith | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| 2 | 9:05:00 AM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Carolina Bight Sanctuary, Inc (dba Carolina Bight Birding Center) | 2026 Marketing Bird Sanctuaries in Beaufort County | 1/1/2026 | Birding Sanctuaries and Spaces Throughout Beaufort County in 2026 | Jenn | Clementoni | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 36,200.00 | \$ - |
| 3 | 9:10:00 AM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra | HHSO Symphony Under The Stars Concert | 4/8/2026 | Fripp Island Ocean Creek Golf Course | Alan | Jordan | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| 4 | 9:15:00 AM | GUERRA | Memory Matters | 2026 Move Your Mind 5K Run/Walk | 9/19/2026 | tbd | Stacy | Floyd | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 5 | 9:20:00 AM | DESAI | Friends of Hunting Island State Park | Fresnel Lens Enhancement Project 2026 | ongoing | Hunting Island State Park | Linda | Miller | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 6 | 9:25:00 AM | GIBBS | Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail | Promoting the Spanish Moss Trail | 2/2/2026 | Spanish Moss Trail - Beaufort County | Sissy | Perryman | \$ 36,300.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ - |
| 7 | 9:30:00 AM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Greater Beaufort-Port Royal CVB | 2025-2026 Northern Beaufort County DMO Marketing/Promotion | 11/1/2025 | Northern Beaufort County | Robb | Wells | \$ 195,000.00 | \$ 270,000.00 | \$ 195,000.00 |
| 8 | 9:35:00 AM | STEWART | Long Cove Club | Darius Rucker Intercollegiate | 3/2/2026 | Long Cove Club of Hilton Head Island | Christy | Cohen | \$ 16,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 9 | 9:40:00 AM | GREEN | Pat Conroy Literacy Center | March Forth Event 2026 | 3/7 - 3/8/2026 | Penn Center and Literacy Center | Bruce | Murdy | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| | BREAK 10 MINS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 10:00:00 AM | GUERRA | Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park | 12th Annual Juneteenth Celebration | 6/11-13, 19/2026 | Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park | Ahmad | Ward | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| 11 | 10:05:00 AM | GREEN | Historic Port Royal Foundation | Create a Visitor Center at the Port Royal Museum | ongoing | Historic Port Royal Foundation Musuem | Marcy | Roy | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 12 | 10:10:00 AM | STEWART | Black Moses Freedom Festival | Black Moses Freedom Festival | 6/5/2026 | Penn Center - St. Helena Island | Eboni | Holmes | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 13 | 10:15:00 AM | GIBBS | Beaufort International Film Society | Beaufort International Film Festival | 2/17/2026 | USC Beaufort, Center for the Arts | Ron | Tucker | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| 14 | 10:20:00 AM | STEWART | The Original Gullah Festival of South Carolina, Inc. | 2026 Original Gullah Festival | 5/22/2026 | Chambers Waterfront Park, Tabernacle Baptist, and more | Denise | Bullitt | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ - |
| 15 | 10:25:00 AM | GREEN | Penn Center | 2026 Penn Center Juneteenth Celebration | 6/20/2026 | Penn Center - St. Helena Island | Denise | Bullitt | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 16 | 10:30:00 AM | GUERRA | Penn Center | Penn Center 2026 Heritage Days | 10/12/2026 | Penn Center - St. Helena Island | Denise | Bullitt | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 17 | 10:35:00 AM | GREEN | Gullah Traveling Theater | 2026 Decoration Day | 5/21-5/23/26 | USCB Center for the Arts | Denise | Bullitt | \$ 36,500.00 | \$ 13,500.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 18 | 10:40:00 AM | GIBBS | Hilton Head Choral Society | Vienna Boys Choir Concerts | 2/23/2026 | Low Country Community Church, Bluffton SC | David | Coyle | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,500.00 |
| 19 | 10:45:00 AM | DESAI | Friends of Fort Fremont | Fort Fremont Marketing Campaign | 1/1/2026 | Fort Fremont Preserve - St. Helena Island | Wendy | Wilson | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ - |
| | BREAK 10 MINS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 11:00:00 AM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Libraries for Kids International | Dreams Under the Serengeti - Libraries for Kids Int'l World Book Day 2026 | 4/25/2026 | Port Royal Sound Foundation - Weezie Educational Pavilion | Laura | Winkel | \$ 10,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 21 | 11:05:00 AM | GIBBS | Beaufort Area Hospitality Association | Beaufort Oyster Festival | 1/17/2026 | Waterfront Park - Beaufort | Ashlee | Houck | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 22 | 11:10:00 AM | GUERRA | Campbell Chapel Community Development Ministry (CCCDM) | Historic Campbell Chapel Restoration and Rehabilitation | 3/31/2026 | Bluffton | Ron | James | \$ 125,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 23 | 11:15:00 AM | DESAI | Beaufort Area Sports Council | Beaufort County Sports & Cultural Facilities Assessment and Implementation Study | 1/1/2026 | Northern Beaufort County/Beaufort County | Robb | Wells | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 60,000.00 |
| 24 | 11:20:00 AM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Building Brighter Futures | Music Festival of the Lowcountry | 6/6/2026 | Waterfront Park - Beaufort | Jamie | Peart | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 25 | 11:25:00 AM | GIBBS | SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission | Promotion of Beaufort County and the Lowcountry | 7/1/2025 | Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties | Peach | Morrison | \$ 82,900.00 | \$ 93,300.00 | \$ 93,300.00 |
| 26 | 11:30:00 AM | GREEN | Hilton Head Island Land Trust | HHI Land Trust Raptor Cam Project | 1/1/2026 | Hilton Head Island - Land Trust Website (hhilandtrust.org) | James | Schneider | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ - | \$ 20,000.00 |
| 27 | 11:35:00 AM | STEWART | Favour Corp | 843 Gospel Jubilee Festival | 3/28/2026 | Habersham Vacant Lot or 22 Sammie Lane Dr. is the secondary location | Andrea | Murray | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ - |
| 28 | 11:40:00 AM | DESAI | Basic Enhancements, Inc | Mermaids Of The Low Country | 6/6/2026 | Penn Center - St. Helena Island | Terilyn | Smith | \$ 22,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 29 | 11:45:00 AM | GUERRA | Port Royal Sound Foundation | Tourism Marketing and Maritime Center Exhibits | 1/1/2026 | Port Royal Sound Foundation campus | Kat | Armstrong | \$ 96,000.00 | \$ 89,510.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| | LUNCH 40 MINS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 12:30:00 PM | STEWART | Beaufort-Jasper YMCA | Annual Beaufort River Swim and Run | 6/6/2026 | Port Royal Marina | Julie | Kuhns | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |

2025-2026 State 2% Accommodations Tax Grant Presentation Schedule
9/23/25

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------------|--|--|-----------|---|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 31 | 12:35:00 PM | GREEN | Beaufort Water Search And Rescue | Water rescue services and water related event patrols | 1/1/2026 | County wide water rescue services | Patrick | Canning | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 32 | 12:40:00 PM | SINGLETON-PRATHER | Freedman Arts District | Chalk It Up! Arts Festival | 3/27/2026 | Freedman Arts District - Beaufort | Elizabeth | Quarles | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 97,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| 33 | 12:45:00 PM | DESAI | Historic Bluffton Foundation | 2nd Annual Under the Ancient Oaks Living History Festival | 10/7/2026 | Heyward House Museum - 70 Boundary Street, Bluffton SC, 29910 | Nicki | Graziani | \$ 7,450.00 | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ - |
| 34 | 12:50:00 PM | STEWART | David M. Carmines Memorial Foundation | Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival | 2/23/2026 | Hilton Head - various locations | Kelly | Smith | \$ 36,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ - |
| 35 | 12:55:00 PM | GIBBS | Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival | Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival | 10/1/2025 | Various Locations | Kelly | Smith | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 38,000.00 |
| 36 | 1:00:00 PM | GUERRA | Native Island Business & Community Affairs Association | 30th Annual Gullah Celebration | 2/1/2026 | Various Locations Throughout HHI, Bluffton and County | Kelly | Smith | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | | Total Requested | \$ 1,379,150.00 | | |
| | | | | | | | | Available | \$ 1,000,000.00 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

1:05 PM Greater Beaufort Port Royal CVB
1:10 PM Beaufort Area Sports Council

ADDED: Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association, 2026 Golf Tourism to Drive Vacating Golfers to Beaufort County, Barry Flemming, \$20,000