

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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Council Action Summary

February 2004

February 9, 2004

Entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement between Jasper County and Beaufort County for the housing, maintenance and care of their inmates at the Beaufort County Detention Center.

Adopted its 2004 regular meeting schedule, which includes holding the March 8 and September 27 meetings at the Hilton Head Library and the June 14 and November 22 meetings at the Bluffton Library. All meetings begin at 4:00 p.m.

Adopted a resolution whereby all recommendations contained in the report of the Governor's Water Law Review Committee should be carefully studied by the Governor, his executive staff and the South Carolina Legislature and wherever possible, should be implemented quickly; and the Governor should begin the process, as recommended by the Report, of developing an Interstate Compact with the State of Georgia, so as to protect South Carolina's rights to the long-term use of the water resources of the Savannah River Basin.

Approved on first reading an ordinance establishing an Internal Auditor unit and adopting language relative to the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) to establish new requirements governing auditor independence.

Adopted a resolution opposing H.3612-School Bond Tax Sale because it allows local school districts in a county area to hold a countywide referendum for the imposition of a special one percent sales and use tax and limits the abilities of other agencies to do something similar.

Adopted a resolution opposing H.3555-Hog Bill because it prohibits a County from enacting an ordinance that supersedes or imposes a more stringent standard than standards established by the General Assembly relating to the production of livestock or poultry.

Adopted a resolution opposing H.3777-Uniform Voting Machines because it repeals a county choice of voting machines and mandates uniform voting machines.

February 23, 2004

Endorsed the submittal of a Senior Services Grant application in the amount of \$350,000 and commit \$15,000 of in-kind services as local match.



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Adopted a resolution memorializing the appointing of Beaufort County representatives to the Commission created pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, SC Code Ann., Section 4-10-300, *et seq.* (Supp. 2003); to provide for the duties and responsibilities of the Commission members and to provide for other matters relating thereto.

Approved on second reading an ordinance establishing an Internal Auditor unit and adopting language relative to the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) to establish new requirements governing auditor independence.

Approved on first reading a proposed FY-2004 budget amendment appropriating accumulated year-end fund balances in an amount up to \$200,000 as financial support for the efforts of the Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce Military Enhancement Committee.

Approved on first reading an ordinance to approve a lease and sublease of County-owned real property to the Daufuskie Island Cooperative, Inc., tenant, and Ms. Beth Shipman, doing business as Marshside Mama's, subtenant, among other things.

Approved on first reading a Port Royal Island rezoning request/map amendment to the Beaufort County Zoning Map for R100-27-13 and 13A (also known as Cherokee Farms, 105 acres); from Rural with Transitional Overlay (R-TO) to Suburban (S).

Approved on first reading text amendments to the Beaufort County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO), Article II (Administrative Bodies and Agents) and Article III (Administrative Procedures) (streamlines design review process and adds informative flowcharts).

Approved on first reading text amendments to the Beaufort County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO), Appendix I, Lady's Island Community Preservation Area, Division 1, Section 1.5 (Limited And Special Use Standards, Residential Uses) and Division II, Section 2.5 (Limited and Special Use Standards, Residential Uses) (deletes density requirements that were contingent upon completion of Sam's Point Road improvements).

Approved on third and final reading text amendments to the Beaufort County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO), Appendix D, Community Preservation/CP Areas, Section 1, and Tables 1 and 4 (deletes references to CP Areas that have completed Community Plans or have been rezoned).

Appointed Ms. Peggy Duncan, representing cultural, to serve as a member on the Accommodations Tax Board.

Approved the County applying for a \$20,000 Community Development Block Grant Program planning grant for economic development in the Yemassee area.

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Approved as its top four priorities for the Community Development Block Grant Program: (1) Infrastructure, (2) Economic development, (3) Affordable housing, and (4) Demolition and clearance of dilapidated homes.

Approved the County applying for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for waterline extension in the Dale Community.

Amended a resolution adopted November 10, 2003, paragraph (v), Section 2, Article VII, Personnel Policies, as follows: delete "length of service is waived for employees retiring due to disability" and add "employees retiring under a job-related disability and having less than ten years of service, length of service is waived."

Adopted a resolution amending the Personnel Policies Manual, Article VII, Fringe Benefits, Section 4, Workers' Compensation Insurance, Paragraph B, Medical Attention and Compensation, paragraph 2, allowing an employee to use any personal leave time to help compensate for the 66 2/3 pay they would receive under Workers' Compensation.

Supported the following bills: (i) H.4336 - Imposes a \$5 dollar occupation tax on the non-owner occupant of a time sharing unit to be collected and distributed like the accommodations tax; (ii) H.4440 - Treats boats as real estate for property taxation and provides a \$1,500 cap on the boat tax in any year; (iii) H.4481 - Enacts the South Carolina Military Preparedness and Enhancement Act to establish the South Carolina Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission for the purpose of enhancing the value of military facilities located in this state and assisting defense communities with such value enhancement. Also establishes the South Carolina Military Value Revolving Loan Account to provide loans to assist defense communities to enhance the value of military facilities and to provide other methods and incentives to accomplish these purposes; (iv) H.4556 - Empowers local governing bodies to enter into agreements with sign owners to relocate and reconstruct signs, to provide for the payment of just compensation when a sign is removed without an agreement between the parties, and to provide for mediation or arbitration between the parties when they fail to reach an agreement; (v) H.4587 - Allows a local governing body to make the maximum speed limit on a locally maintained road less than that determined by the state authority; (vi) S.532 - "Free Pour" – Authorizes the Election Commission to provide a referendum to legalize the sale of free pour alcohol; (vii) S.664 - Boat Property Taxes – Proposes to cap the property tax bill on a boat at \$5,000.00 and would authorize the county to set the property tax assessment ratio not lower than 2%; (viii) S.780 - Devolves all powers and responsibilities of the legislation delegation involving boards and commissions affecting one county to the county governing body; (ix) S.793 - Permits counties to reduce the assessment ratio on boats to 4%; (x) S.794 - Camera Red Light Enforcement – Authorizes the use of cameras to enforce red traffic lights. The proposal makes the penalty no more than \$100.00 and involves no point on the driver's license; and (xi) S.813 - Allows the Capital Project Sales Tax to be used for parking garages.



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Opposed the following bills: (i) H.3689 – Mandatory Statewide 15% Valuation Limitation for Residential Property - Changes the current 15% limitation on valuation increases due to reassessment by deleting the optional nature of the limit and applying it to all residential property - owner occupied or rental; (ii) H.4408 – Prohibits rush hour driver's license and vehicle registration check points; (iii) H.4424 – Provides that if in the imposition of a county sales and use tax for transportation facilities is not approved in a referendum, then a subsequent referendum for the tax may not be held before the second statewide general election after the referendum; (iv) H.4450 – Requires as part of the reassessment that each parcel of improved real property be visited by an employee or agent of the assessor's office at least once in the two years ending on completion of the program; (v) H. 4467 – Requires that property tax reassessment notices include projections of the following year's tax; (vi) H.4468 – Provides for a millage rate calculated to produce no more than 1% additional property tax revenue above the revenue received in the preceding year; (vii) H. 4723 – Changes the name of a county's transportation committee to a county's "legislative delegation" transportation committee; (viii) S.826 – Requires local planning commissions to include road construction, transit projects, and pedestrian and bicycle paths in their basic planning process; and (ix) S.941 - Requires DHEC certification that every environmental permitting action is consistent with long-range environmental preservation and protection plans in addition to state and local plans.

Adopted a resolution taking such actions as are necessary to apply during the current funding cycle for a Community Development Block Grant to determine what actions are required to make the northern portion of Beaufort County, including, specifically, that area zoned for industrial development and the surrounding areas ready and attractive for investment of the type that will provide economic development, diversity and opportunity to Beaufort County.

Forwarded a letter of endorsement to SCDOT supporting the efforts of the Lowcountry Council of Governments ongoing efforts to develop the four-county Revolutionary War Trail.