

**(DRAFT) MINUTES  
GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**January 28, 2019**

Executive Conference Room, Administration Building,  
Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex,  
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

The electronic and print media duly notified in  
accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

**Attendance**

Present: Committee Chairman Paul Sommerville, Committee Vice Chairman Mark Lawson, and members Alice Howard, and Lawrence McElynn  
Absent: Brian Flewelling  
Ex-officio: Michael Covert, Gerald Dawson, York Glover and Joe Passiment (Non-committee members of Council serve as *ex-officio* members and are entitled to vote.)  
Staff: Phil Foot, Assistant Administrator, Public Safety; Gregg Hunt, Director of Mosquito Control; Chris Inglese, Assistant County Attorney; Tom Keaveny, County Attorney; Dave Thomas, Purchasing Director; Tallulah Trice, Animal Shelter Director; John Weaver Interim County Administrator.

**Call to Order**

Paul Sommerville called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Alice Howard, seconded by Mr. McElynn to add the renewal of the McNair Lobbying Contract to the agenda as an off agenda item. The vote: YAYS – Mrs. Howard, Mr. McElynn, and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

It was moved by Mrs. Howard, seconded by Mr. McElynn to approve the agenda as amended, with the following addition: renewal of the McNair Lobbying contract. The vote: YAYS – Mrs. Howard, Mr. McElynn, and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Citizen Comments**

Gibson Solomons spoke on behalf of the Holy Trinity Classical Christian Schools in regards to the potential purchase of the Bob Jones County Park for the school's expansion.

Mayor Billy Keyserling spoke in support of Holy Trinity Classical Christian School's potential request to purchase the Bob Jones County Park.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Item: Text Amendments to the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances / Chapter 14: Animals**

**Discussion:** Tallulah Trice spoke regarding the proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14: Animals. Ms. Trice said the revisions will make Beaufort County a safer place for both residents and pets.

Councilman McElynn expressed concern about the neutering of pit bulls in Section 14-30, the language regarding provocation of dogs in Section 14-32a, penalization of dangerous dog owners in Section 14-32a6, and the requirements for the necessary purchase of dog insurance, a kennel and muzzle if the county has possession of a dog.

Councilman Glover suggested adding language in Section 14-43 that states livestock cannot be tethered or left in barns during a hurricane or violent storm, and should be allowed to roam freely.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Howard, seconded by Mr. Lawson to move this item to Council with the discussed changes to the ordinance's language. The vote: YAYS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Status:** Committee recommended necessary changes to the ordinance's language. The revised ordinance will go before Council at the next meeting.

#### **Item: Purchase of Public Health Insecticide for Mosquito Control**

**Discussion:** Dave Thomas requested permission to purchase EPA registered insecticide Natular/XRT tablets from Clarke Mosquito Control Product, Inc., a state contract and/or sole-source vendor to treat an estimated 21,500 catch basins throughout Beaufort County starting in April 2019. The total cost of the contract is \$89,698.60. The cost will come out of the general fund budget for public health products.

Mosquito Control Director, Gregg Hunt, explained that the more growth and infrastructure Beaufort County has, the more catch basins will be created. Mosquito Control will keep adding to the inventory of how many catch basins can be treated. Last year, just over 26,000 catch basins were treated.

Mr. Covert asked if there's anything on the horizon to treat mosquitoes non-chemically. Mr. Hunt said the natural breeding habitats throughout the county can be altered. However, the number one pest is the salt marsh mosquito, and its habitat cannot be altered because it would

destroy the beauty of the Lowcountry. Beaufort County Mosquito Control has to limit when and where the insecticides can be applied due to the large amounts of water in Beaufort County. Most of the products used by Beaufort County are environmentally safe. Some organizations north and south of Beaufort County use organophosphate insecticides. Mr. Hunt says he refuses to use that type of product because of its underlying damages to the environment.

Mr. Lawson said to make sure beekeepers are aware of the spraying program. Mr. Hunt informed the committee that beekeepers are notified 1 day in advance before spraying. Ground trucks also spray at night when bees are not active.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. McElynn, seconded by Mrs. Howard to grant \$89,698.60 for the appropriation for mosquito control. The vote: YAYS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Status:** Committee granted Mosquito Control permission to purchase insecticides.

### **OFF AGENDA ACTION ITEM**

#### **Item: Renewal of McNair Lobbying Contract**

**Discussion:** Chairman Sommerville highlighted the purpose of renewing a lobbying contract with McNair Law Firm.

Senator Tom Davis and Chip Campsen will be lobbying for one billion dollars of extra funds on Beaufort County's behalf. Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) and University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) piggyback on this contract. TCL is currently lobbying with the help of Beaufort County's lobbyists for capital projects. USCB is also lobbying with the help of Beaufort County's lobbyists for per-pupil funding up to the state average.

Under the ethics law, lobbyists must be registered to lobby for anyone. Lobbyist cannot be registered without a contract. The contract is \$48,050 dollars per year, and eligible to be approved at committee level. The county administrator has the authority to sign any contract over \$25,000 and under \$50,000.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. McElynn, seconded by Mr. Covert to approve the renewal of the McNair Lobbying Contract. YAYS - Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Status:** Committee voted to approve the renewal of the McNair Lobbying Contract.

#### **Item: Consideration of Appointments and Reappointments / Burton Fire District Commission**

**Discussion:** Mr. Sommerville stated that appointments to the Burton Fire District were on hold.

**Item: Consideration of Appointments and Reappointments / Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. McElynn, seconded by Mr. Dawson that Committee recommend Council reappoint Daniel Anderson and Don Dean as members of the Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board. The vote: YAYS - Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. McElynn, seconded by Mrs. Howard that Committee recommend Council nominate Raymond Ambrose, to serve as a member of the Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board. The vote: YAYS - Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Recommendation:** Council reappoint Daniel Anderson and Don Dean and nominate Raymond Ambrose to serve as members of the Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board.

**Item: Consideration of Appointments and Reappointments / Daufuskie Island Fire District Board**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. McElynn that Committee recommend Council reappoint Dr. Carole Rizzo-Baum as a member of the Daufuskie Island Fire District Board. The vote: YAYS - Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. McElynn that Committee recommend Council appoint Bill Crabtree as a member of the Daufuskie Island Fire District. The vote: YAYS - Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McElynn, Mr. Passiment and Mr. Sommerville. The motion passed.

**Recommendation:** Council reappoint Dr. Carole Rizzo-Baum and nominate Bill Crabtree to serve as members of the Daufuskie Island Fire District Board.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **1. Update**

- **Public Safety Division**

**Discussion:** Mr. Phil Foot, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety provided the Committee with an update on the county's new animal campus.

The new animal campus is almost completed. Mr. Foot invited committee members to tour the new facility. The official grand opening will take place mid-March 2019. The grand opening will also be a joint opening with Hilton Head Island Humane Association.

**Status:** Information only.

### **2. Discussion / Possible Sale of the Bob Jones Park to Trinity School**

**Discussion:** Tom Keaveny explained to the committee that Holy Trinity Classical School approached Beaufort County several months ago about the possibility of acquiring a recreation park behind the school for expansion purposes. Several years ago, Bob Jones Park was given to the county by the city. The property has been maintained and utilized for programming by the county. Mr. Keaveny explained that if the school purchases the property, the county may be able to use those funds to invest in other programs in the City of Beaufort. An appraisal had been done for the Bob Jones Park in the past. Yet, the county thought the appraisal was low, and desires a second appraisal.

**Status:** Committee agreed to proceed with getting a new appraisal of the property, and Tom Keaveny will bring the appraisal back to the committee at a later date.