

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

April 16, 2019, 6:00 PM

Mary Field School

Call to Order: Council Co-Chair Leanne Coulter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Leanne Coulter, Sallie Ann Robinson, Steve Hill, Roger Pinckney,
Robert Levis, John Schartner

Absent: Brandy Breese

Pledge to Flag: Karen Opderbeck lead the Pledge of Allegiance

General Announcements: None

Guest Invited Speaker: Erica Veit, Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society

Erica gave background information on the Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society. Founded in 2015, it has grown in the last 4 years. Erica reported they've increased from 2 Marsh Tacky horses to ten, located in three locations on Daufuskie. Erica reported they've introduced a breeding program producing two Marsh Tacky foals born on the island last year. Some folks say they are the first Daufuskie foals in fifty years.

Erica announced the Society is soon to achieve one of their long-term needs for a mainland location. They are negotiating with Beaufort County to lease the 38-acre Duncan Farms land located in northern Beaufort County. Operating an equestrian facility is very challenging for an island with no bridge. This would be an expansion of the Marsh Tacky Society—they would not be leaving Daufuskie but a mainland location will help to increase the herd. She states that for the first time we could have a safe place to go in case of evacuation, there could be a passive park with regular hours, and we can increase the opportunities for the public to be involved.

Erica opened it up for questions. One question asked was will there be tours? Erica reported that they have their first full time employee who will arrive (and live) on the island next week. Erica reported we have capital problems and our main priority is taking care of the horses and their needs, but they are moving towards tours and having a full-time employee will help.

Roger asked if the council could draft a letter of support for the Marsh Tacky Society. Leanne thanked Erica for all of her hard work.

Public Forum #1

No comment or issue raised.

Community Happenings – Steve Hill

- This is a big week for our area with the Heritage Golf Tournament taking place.
- Pastor Aaron is having two Easter Sunday services (8:30 on the beach at Haig Point and 10:00 at the church). The church service will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.
- April 22 will be Earth Day.
- The following weekend, 27-28 April, the Marine Corps air show will be held in Beaufort. The Blue Angels will be there.
- For the next 10 months there will be an increase in the number of sonic booms.
- 4th of May – the Conservancy is having their Spring Beach sweep at 10:00.
- May 5th – Cinco De Mayo.
- May 12th - Mother's Day.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Leanne reported she does not have an update.

Ferry Committee: Leanne reported that the main concern discussed at the ferry committee meeting was parking and there was no resolution. Sallie Ann reported there are two new signs that say Parking for Daufuskie Residents Only. Roger asked everyone to consider splitting the ferry system up. Three vendors would allow for more parking.

Planning Committee: Steve Hill reported on the recent Committee meeting. A small group has been established and anyone is welcome to join. The DI Plan and Code action plan has about 35 items. The committee is reviewing these items to determine which ones can be accomplished. Steve reported they want to establish a liaison with the Beaufort County planning group. We also want to have another survey to determine island priorities.

Access, Easements and Roads Committee: Roger Pinckney reported a Council discussion was held regarding tourism season and concerns about children driving golf carts and open containers. The Council is investigating providing cautionary road signs. It was suggested that a separate page be included in the golf cart rental contract regarding the rules of the road and what the accompanying fine would be. It was asked if the Beaufort County Sheriff's office could put up signs and use their logo on the contract pages.

Council Projects:

Melrose Landing Fuel Tanks: Roger Pinckney reported DHEC is addressing this issue. The fix is not to dig up the tanks – it is to drain them and clean them and fill them with sand. There will be a public bid for whom will do the work. The hope is to get it done before hurricane system.

Sheriff Dept. Report- 2018 Daufuskie Incidents: Steve Hill explained that in response to a FOIA request submitted to Beaufort County Sheriff Department, he received an

Incident and Crime report. There were 20 reports in 2018. 2 forgery, 2 Health and Welfare checks, 2 internet scams, 1 incident of reckless driving (golf car rollover), and 1 of driving without a license, 1 defrauding a vendor, 1 sexual assault, 1 DNR assist, there were a couple of found properties (the police dept found a \$1.00 and reported it), 2 burglary reports, 1 animal dog bite, 1 child custody response, 1 labeled suspicious activity, 1 recovered human bone. Steve will submit another FOIA request to receive information on routine traffic citations, etc. Steve spoke with the Sheriff Dept rep for Daufuskie who reported most citations are for open containers and underage driving.

Public Forum #2

- Julie Pennebaker brought up again that we need beach trashcans (critter proof) and a contractor to empty them. Casey Scott has put in a proposal to pick up 5 cans in various locations around the island twice a week.
- It was asked if we have a firm commitment for a location for Daufuskie Day. Sallie Ann reported it will be held at the County Dock.
- Leanne reported on the comments made by John Weaver, Interim Beaufort County Administrator and stated the council has been involved with many conversations with the county regarding the ferry service.
- Leanne, at the request of Deborah Smith, read a letter from State Representative Jeff Bradley on the utility vehicle issue. Rep. Bradley thanked the islanders who recently traveled to Columbia to speak on behalf of the bill he introduced to permit use of utility vehicles on Daufuskie roads. Rep. Bradley recently had a meeting with the State DMV Director who related that DMV could not support the bill. Rep. Bradley commented that he does not see much hope for the bill without DMV support.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03.