

# **Daufuskie Island Council Meeting**

October 15, 2019 - 6:00 PM

Mary Field School

**Call to Order:** John Schartner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

## **Roll Call:**

Present: Leanne Coulter, Roger Pinkney, Brandy Breese, Steve Hill, John Schartner, Robert Levis

Absent: Sallie Ann Robinson

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **General Announcements:**

- Steve Hill reported on the **Highway 278 Corridor Improvement Project** – public meetings have been held and there is a website available. They are considering widening the current four lanes into six. The widening would cross Pinkney Island, designated by county ordinance as a future Daufuskie Island ferry landing. The website displays the six alternatives for the widening and there is a place where you can make comments. The community is encouraged to provide comments; comment period runs until October 25<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion was made to post on NextDoor which will be done.
- Steve also shared that the county has a phone/portable device app named “Beaufort County Connect” permitting citizens to notify the county about public facilities needing attention (example: potholes, trash along the road, etc.). You can take a photo and then send to the county.
- Roger Pinckney reported a field representative from Congressman Joe Cunningham’s office is available to support constituents’ needs.

## **Public Forum #1**

Beaufort County School District has made available district-wide school ratings. Daufuskie is not included. Leanne stated we are part of Creative Arts School and would be listed under them. She also reported the superintendent visited our school this past week. It was suggested that our Daufuskie school be named a Creative Arts School.

## **Community Happenings**

Saturday Oct 26, the Daufuskie Island Elementary school fall fundraiser will be held 3-6 p.m. There will be a cake walk, silent auction, and dinner. There are many exciting donations for the silent auction.

This weekend is the Vibes and Tides event at Haig Point – culinary and craft artists are featured.

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Historical Foundation is having a free golf cart tour of Daufuskie.

October 31<sup>st</sup> is Halloween. Kids will trick or treat (Historic District, Haig Point, and Melrose) - details will be posted later. Melrose spot will be at the Beach Club this year.

The governor has declared October 26-31 Bat Week.

Saturday Nov. 2 Freeport is conducting its first annual Ugly Fish Tournament.

Saturday, Nov. 9 Lowcountry Vets will visit Daufuskie; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Appointments are necessary.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Art/Auction Sale 7-9:30 p.m. in the HP clubhouse \$38 a person – all welcome.

Nov 11 – Veteran Day and Veteran Day’s parade will be held in Bluffton.

Absentee Balloting is now open in advance of the Nov 4<sup>th</sup> election. School District Bond referendum is up for vote this election.

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Brandy reported on account balances, which remain unchanged.

#### **Ferry Committee:**

- Leanne stated two things have occurred since the last meeting. Rob McPhee and Monica Spells asked for several people to work with them and the county. Community members Pat Allison, Dean Roberson, and Steve Hill will work with them seeking long term solutions for ferry parking. A survey will be put out to those who ride the public ferry – the ferry committee will edit and revise the draft being drawn up and put out to the community.
- Steve Hill reported the Beaufort County Public Facilities Committee recently met and considered the renewal of the ferry contract (was June 2018 -June 2019 – now operating on a month to month extension). There was a member of the Buckingham neighborhood who recommended moving the ferry because of the impact to the neighborhood. The committee approved the renewal of the contract presented and it will go before the full County Council for approval.

**Planning Committee:** Leanne reports the committee hasn’t met this month; the ferry committee has taken priority this month. Code enforcement has been recommended as

the priority to work on. Apparently, for example, there is a tiny house on the island – this is not allowed in the code. The homeowner has been notified but there is no enforcement of consequences. In addition, there is a 30-foot buffer when building that is not being followed. There is a need for people to work with the county to make sure codes are enforced.

**Access, Easements and Roads Committee:**

- Roger reports we have been dealing with the county regarding Prospect Road. A portion of the road is threatened with closure – the council unanimously adopted a resolution requesting Beaufort County bring action before the Master of Equity to establish a Prescriptive Easement on the public’s behalf. The complete resolution follows as Attachment 1.
- Melrose Fuel Tanks: Roger stated that the priority in cases like this is first, public health and safety needs, and second, the need to protect the environment. Rick Toomey, former CEO of Memorial Hospital, will meet with the council to address this issue.
- Burned House on Church Road –Roger has been in touch with the County to help enforce. Two separate citations were issued (burned vehicles and house ruins). Discussion ensued dealing with the barge and how to remove the ruins as well as past practices.

**Public Forum #2**

- Question was asked if anything will be done with all the discarded and abandoned air conditioners/HVAC units in Melrose. Casey Scott is going to bring a dumpster over and get rid of them. It was asked if there was an estimated time frame. Casey Scott would be the contact.
- Brandy reported on a rumor that Bluffton and Daufuskie Fire department would combine as one. She emphasized it is only a rumor. The council is aware of the situation and if anything comes up they will let the community know. Before any changes were ever made there would be community awareness and opportunities for community input.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm

14 October 2019

**A RESOLUTION BY THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND COUNCIL**

*Whereas*, the Daufuskie Island Council and its immediate predecessors have been recognized by Beaufort County as the official Voice of Daufuskie continuously since 1962; and

*Whereas*, Prospect Road, on the south end of Daufuskie Island, has been in continuous use for at least 200 years; and

*Whereas*, Prospect Road is considered an island treasure – a classic lowcountry unimproved thoroughfare – densely canopied, elegant, peaceful – many believe it is the most beautiful road on Daufuskie; and

*Whereas*, Prospect Road is specifically cited in the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code for its importance aesthetically, as well as practically as a thoroughfare connecting river to beach.

*Whereas*, A portion of Prospect Road is threatened with closure by the current owner of the Egleberger Tract.

*Be it hereby resolved:*

As Prospect Road has been open to the public and maintained by Beaufort County for an extended time, we respectfully request Beaufort County bring action before the Master of Equity to establish a Prescriptive Easement on the public's behalf.

Adopted by the unanimously Daufuskie Island Council on this day, October 14, 2019