

# Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

September 17, 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. with a quorum of members present.

## **Roll Call:**

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

Absent: Brandy Breese

## **Pledge to Flag**

## **General Announcements:**

- Recent achievements of DI Council members were noted:
  - Roger Pinckney and Sallie Anne Robinson have published new books
  - Robert Levis and Leanne Coulter have been profiled in magazine articles over the summer
  - Hilton Head Monthly magazine published an article on the DI Council

**Guest Invited Speaker:** Bayed Huggins, manager of the new restaurant at the County Landing, addressed the meeting. He reported Pointed Feather has signed a lease with the County and they're moving ahead with development plans. Until opening they will be maintaining the grounds, cutting the grass, and arranging restroom cleaning. Mr. Huggins has restaurant management experience – he currently runs a restaurant in Port Royal. He brought two displays to the meeting – one showing the expected floorplan, and another providing a concept for the general store. He estimates the store will open in 2-3 months and is targeting Easter 2020 for the restaurant opening. In response to a question, Mr. Huggins estimated that the restaurant/store can be expected to employ 10-12 people.

**Public Forum #1** – No comments

**Community Happenings:** Several upcoming events were highlighted: 21 Sept. Beach Sweep sponsored by the Daufuskie Island Conservancy, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jeremiah Ministries Charity Golf Tournament supporting medical missions scheduled for Oct. 7 conducted by the First Union African Baptist Church.

Ms. Amanda Lofton, Daufuskie Island Elementary School Administrator, introduced Ms. Melanie Lewis, one of two schoolteachers at the school. Ms. Lewis provided an overview of the 2019-2020 school term. This year 18 students are enrolled in the elementary school, with an additional 15 riding the ferry to attend Junior High and High School on Hilton Head. The elementary school will be conducting its annual Fall-Fest on Saturday,

October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurers Report:** No change

**Ferry Committee:** Leanne Coulter

Parking continues to be a challenge. Robert McFee, Director of Construction, Engineering and Facilities for Beaufort County suggested two individuals from Daufuskie Island work with County employees to work on a long-term solution for an parking in Bluffton/Hilton Head. Monica Spells indicated a new RFP for the Daufuskie Island ferry would be initiated at the beginning of next year. She suggested the DI Council work with the community to determine the needs of the community in regard to ferry service.

**Roads and Easements:** Roger Pinckney

- Council continues to work to ensure continued public access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and Mungin River. A resolution passed by the Council and transmitted to the Beaufort County Council was presented. Resolution follows as Attachment 1.
- Beaufort County's five-year road paving plan includes three roads on Daufuskie: School, Church, and Prospect. Council is not in favor of paving these roads with a hard surface, however, conversation with the County Engineer has indicated that an alternative surfacing, such as crushed rock, could be considered. Any work will require coordination with current property owners to establish right-of-ways.

### **Council Projects:**

**Hurricane Dorian Lessons Learned:** Steve Hill reported reaching out to island Fire Chief Eddie Boys and Beaufort County Emergency Management Director Lt. Col. Neil Baxley to discuss observations from the experience with the recent Hurricane. Chief Boys related that approximately 145 people remained on the island during the storm. Both officials praised the communication flow permitting accurate warning to be disseminated and assessments to be received. Chief Boys complimented the responsiveness of the ferry service and Haig Point management.

**Melrose Fuel Tanks:** Roger Pinckney provide the latest update on the continued efforts to mitigate the threat posed by residual fuel remaining in the fuel tanks at Melrose Landing.

**Public Forum #2** – No comments

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

**Attachment 1**

**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*, the Bloody Point Cemetery lies entirely within the boundaries of the Bloody Point Community on Daufuskie Island and

*Whereas*, the Bloody Point Cemetery is a contributing property to the Status of Daufuskie Island's designation a National Historic Landmark District by the Department of the Interior in 1982 and

*Whereas*, Section 27-43-310 SC of Code Laws guarantees public access to cemeteries on private land and

*Whereas*, the Bloody Point Partnership on June 8, 1989, conveyed to the public a perpetual access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and the Mungin River via the Bloody Point road system and

*Whereas*, such easement was legally recorded in the appropriate court of law and is a matter of public record and

*Whereas*, public access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and the Mungin River is attached to the Bloody Point PUD agreement with Beaufort County and

*Whereas*, the access to the Mungin River is recognized as a Public Beach Access by Beaufort County and published as such in print and electronic media and

*Whereas*, public access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and the Mungin River has been open, free and uncontested for the last twenty years and

*Whereas*, public funds have been used to mitigate erosion at the Bloody Point Cemetery and Mungin River public beach access and

*Whereas*, numerous residents and visitors have been recently denied access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and the Mungin River by Bloody Point security personnel and

*Whereas* current signage posted by the Bloody Point Property Owners Association discourages public access

Be it hereby resolved:

The Daufuskie Island Council hereby finds signs discouraging beach access to the Mungin River hostile and offensive to the intent of the original easement and to SC law and petitions Beaufort County to affect their removal and/or replacement by signage denoting the public's right of access.

Adopted by the Daufuskie Island Council on this day, August 26, 2019

Signed:

Leann Coulter, Co-Chairman  
John Schartner, Co-Chairman  
Sallie Ann Robinson, Vice Chairman

Brandy Breese  
Steve Hill  
Robert Levis  
Roger Pinckney