

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

December 20, 2016

Minutes

Call to Order

Charlie Small called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Present

Charlie Small
Chuck Hunter
Len Pojednic
Tina Fine
Darnell Brawner
Steve Hill
John Schartner
Deborah Smith

Absent

Janet Adams

A majority of the Council being present, a quorum was present

Special Presentation

Deborah Smith introduced Sarah Kimball and Lawson Mansell, from Congressman Mark Sanford's office. Ms. Kimball read a statement made by Congressman Sanford on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives memorializing Council Member Dave Hutton. (Full text is at the end of the minutes.) They then presented a framed copy of the Congressional Record document to Dave's mother, Martha Hutton, and brother, Adam Hutton. The attending public gave a standing ovation to Dave.

Hurricane Recovery

Chuck Hunter provided a FEMA assistance update:

The workers have left for the holidays and are expected to return in early January.

Daufuskie has not yet received the necessary classification for the FEMA trucks to go onto private property, although it's possible that may still happen. However, residents with hanging limbs, trees leaning on or over buildings and/or passageways may want to

hire a service to take care of those problems, including moving the debris to the roadside for pick-up by the FEMA trucks. Chuck said that should volunteer help is needed with such efforts to email him (and please copy Deborah Smith, who has been collecting community requests) with a request for assistance.
(chuck@ospreyconstructioninc.com; debsmith1000@gmail.com)

Tina Fine reported that the Beaufort County website's December 19th update of FEMA assistance with debris and hazardous tree removal included the following:

Vegetative and Debris Removal Operation collection and disposal countywide: 159 loads / 7,721 Cubic Yards

Of that amount, the following was attributed to the Daufuskie Island effort:

83 loads / 3919.50 Cubic Yards from Daufuskie Island

Chuck Hunter said that a proposal is being considered to drop certain debris in the water to create a fishing structure/reef. There have been conversations with Congressman Sanford's and State Senator Tom Davis' offices about this proposal re permitting issues.

In response to a question from a public member, Chuck said that equipment and trucks will be going down smaller roads and are not being forgotten.

Church Road Issues

John Schartner, Chairman of the Roads Committee, reported that in an effort to improve the tractability of Church Road, old asphalt pieces have been deposited on the road. Chuck Hunter and Greg Hutton have been helping with this process. Residents who have to transverse Church Road have complained that the heavy usage by the FEMA trucks have made it difficult to drive down the road.

2017 Council Elections

Steve Hill reported that the Elections Committee is comprised of himself, Darnell Brawner, Leanne Coulter, and Pam Cobb.

The election will take place on Saturday, February 11th, and the polling place will be at the Mary Field School. Ballots will be out on January 16th, and early balloting can take place by mail or email.

Qualifications for Council are:

- Over 18 years old
- Must be an island resident or property owner

- Must be able to dedicate time and commitment to supporting Council activities.

In response to a question from a public member, Steve said that a candidates forum would take place on January 17th (the same day as the Council's January meeting).

Len Pojednic urged people to think about running and to talk to current Council members about factors such as time commitment and responsibilities. He said it is important to have a diverse Council.

Leanne Coulter said that ballot applications can be found at the county dock general store, at the Freeport general store, at the Haig Point Mansion, and the Bloody Point postal center. It was also agreed that applications would be placed at the Melrose postal center.

2016 Accommodations Tax Ballot Initiative & Accommodations Tax Projects

Steve Hill reported on the outcome of a 2016 ballot initiatives, including the special purposes tax proposal that would have imposed a 4 year sales tax to fund specific local projects. That referendum would have provide a substantial amount of funding for two Daufuskie projects: A multi-purpose waste processing center and the purchase of road Right-of-Ways.

This referendum was defeated by an approximate 55-45 vote margin.

Steve also reported on the outcome of the County's process to fund various tourist-generating programs through the county's portion of the accommodations tax. Three requests were submitted by Daufuskie entities, and the funding that was approved is as followed:

\$5000 to the Daufuskie Foundation for Daufuskie Day

\$2500 to the Daufuskie Island Historic Foundation for the printing of brochures.

An application from the Community Preservation Zoning Association for park enhancements was not funded.

Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code

Deborah Smith reported on the November 26th meeting of the Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code. Attending the meeting were Deborah and Janet Adams (Committee Co-Chairs), Darnell Brawner, Martha Hutton, Melissa Lehmburg, John Schartner, and Geof Jenkins. Aaron Crosby also attended in a resource role. Martha and Geof provided helpful insights about the 6 year process used to create the plan, and there was general agreement that the Committee should begin a process to

review the Plan and Code with an eye to making recommendations to the full Council for possible updating

The Committee also had an extensive discussion about the Webb Tract and Oak Ridge development proposal, but Committee members decided that they were not in a position to make any recommendations about this proposal to the full Council since development details were not yet available. A request was made to Aaron (and subsequently to Charlie Small) that the developer be requested to share his proposal with the Committee and with the entire community.

There was also agreement that any activities relating to proposed changes to the Plan and Code, as well as development proposals, should be fully coordinated with the County's planning process, as the County would have final say on any such proposals. Deborah reported that County Planning Director Tony Criscitiello subsequently visited Daufuskie and briefed the Council in an Executive session about his department's role in reviewing development proposals. He said that he was unable to release the information he had about the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge proposal because the developer has not yet submitted a formal application. Mr. Criscitiello promised to communicate the details of any such proposal immediately after its submission, and said he would be happy to return to the island to participate in a public meeting about the proposal. Mr. Criscitiello said that public input on development proposals is very important to his department, to the Planning Commission, and to the County Council.

There was also discussion about a development proposal by Hilton Head National in Bluffton that was cited by Mr. Criscitiello as having similarities to the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge proposal. Aaron Crosby commented that without revealing specifics of the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge proposal (which he had previously represented), in his view that if the HH National project was developed as presented to the county, there might indeed be an impact on the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge proposal, and that there would probably be a benefit from the developers' perspectives to try to be "first out of the gate."

A member of the public commented that she had great concerns about the information that was presented at an August meeting by the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge developer, and especially that Mr. Freedman said that his project was intended to bring a significant number of visitors to the island. It was her recollection that he estimated that at the high end his project could generate as many as 1500 visitors a day or a total of 45,000 additional people each month. Charlie Small commented that he has had conversations with Mr. Freedman and has told him that his proposal would need to take into consideration necessary infrastructure enhancements to accommodate the impact of a fully developed plan.

The same member of the public responded that she hoped very much that the community would have the opportunity to learn more about the Webb Tract/Oak Ridge proposal in the near future and that she hoped the Council would give community members the opportunity to provide input in a timely manner. Several Council members stated that the community would indeed be briefed and input welcomed when/if the

developer made application to the County. Charlie said that approval of the plan would be an important part of improving island marine transportation, which everyone knows is important.

Daufuskie Holiday Ferry Schedule

Steve Hill, Chairman of the Ferry Committee, reported on the Ferry schedule for the remainder of the year:

Departing Bluffton from Oyster Factory Park Landing

7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 4:00 pm - NO 12:00 PM FERRY WILL RUN ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Departing Daufuskie from Melrose Landing

8:30 am; 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm - NO 1:30 PM FERRY WILL RUN ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

There is a special schedule for "Appreciation Fridays" through the end of the year with four additional runs:

Departing Bluffton from Oyster Factory Park Landing are 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm runs.

Departing Daufuskie from Melrose Landing are 7:30 pm and 10:30 pm runs.

Public Comment Section

Public Question: How long will the Daufuskie Island Ferry Service be using Bluffton Oyster Park? Has the County offered any alternative locations?

Steve Hill: The use of Bluffton Oyster Park is temporary. Last month, Beaufort County indicated they were working on other solutions, however nothing definitive has been heard. Last week the County Assistant Administrator suggested meeting after the holidays to discuss the situation.

Steve Hill broadened the discussion by posing a question to attendees as to the level of satisfaction with the use of Bluffton Oyster Park as a ferry embarkation. Response was positive with several specific comments on the ample availability of parking.

A member of the public posed a question regarding continuing to pay Palmetto Breeze parking fees. This person has continued to pay for monthly parking. Other attendees indicated they were told the fees were being held in abeyance. Steve Hill volunteered to contact Palmetto Breeze and provide guidance.

Pastor Aaron Crosby made a public announcement that a community holiday service will be conducted at Daufuskie's First African Baptist Church at 4:30 PM on Saturday, 24 December. Everyone is invited.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm with a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all.

Addendum

REMEMBERING DAVE HUTTON

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dave Hutton of Daufuskie Island, located in the First District of South Carolina. He died earlier this month doing what he loved—living life fully and at full speed. In this case, he was on a hunting trip with friends. He was only twenty-seven years old.

In that vein, Mark Twain once observed that the fear of death results from a fear of life, but someone whose life is well lived is prepared to die at any time. Dave was indeed an example of life robustly lived, and much of his time spent on this earth was in the service of others.

A man of large stature and spirit, his presence was one that welcomed you and that could not be ignored. As a native of Daufuskie Island, it comes as no surprise that Dave was among those who remained behind to watch over it when Hurricane Matthew hit back in October. A member of the so-called "Daufuskie 100"—the name for the number of residents who rode out the storm, he was someone that those on the island looked to as a leader. Indeed, when I last saw Dave, he was leading the cleanup effort from the driver's seat of his bulldozer.

That was par for the course for him. He couldn't help but lead. Even as a toddler, Dave encouraged his mother to give the change to charity whenever they went out to eat, an early indication that a life filled with service was to come. Dave's story is one of leading by example, one of both talking the talk and walking the walk, and I think there is a lesson that all of us can learn from within those pages.

In his memory, I would ask that we take a moment today for reflection, and pause in asking how we can live up to his example of leadership. For those of us who knew him, even in the briefest of life's moments, he will be missed. Accordingly, I want to offer my condolences to his mother, Martha, as well as to the other family and friends he leaves behind.

Daufuskie has lost one of its strongest spirits. But inasmuch as Daufuskie is a heavenly place for all who are called to its shores, I look forward to landing at the ultimate heavenly place that calls all of us one day home—and seeing him there. Dave will be more than just waiting for us. Perhaps on a shinier dozer, he will have cleared a path for islanders and non-islanders alike. He will be giving perhaps a touch too much direction and leadership—but this indeed is the Dave of Dave.

Until that reunion, Godspeed.