

**Daufuskie Island Council  
December 18, 2018 Meeting**

**Mary Fields School**

**Minutes**

Chairperson Deborah Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 am.

**Roll Call**

Present: Chris Sutcliffe, Erin Quinn, Deborah Smith, John Schartner, James Bays, Leanne Coulter, Sallie Ann Robinson

All members being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance - Led by County Councilman Tabor Vaux

Introduction of Special Guests

Ms. Smith introduced two special guests: Outgoing Beaufort County Councilman Tabor Vaux and newly-elected Beaufort County Councilman Mark Lawson, whom she described as "long-time friend of Daufuskie." Mr. Lawson stated that he had been involved in community activities for twenty-eight years. He has also been an active outdoorsman, and has been a visitor to Daufuskie for years. He said that he was dedicated to doing whatever he could to help Daufuskie, and would try hard to fill Mr. Vaux' shoes as Daufuskie's representative on the county council.

**General Announcements**

Deborah Smith stated that Council meetings now includes two public forums. The first public forum will be at the beginning of the meeting and a second one takes place at the end of the meeting. Anyone who wants to speak but does not want his/her name in the minutes should say so.

Ms. Smith stated that the council began the process of revising the bylaws last year. Council Member Leanne Coulter spearheaded this revision process. Ms. Coulter stated that procedures are being clarified and that the process is almost finished. Ms. Smith stated that per a legal advice, revising council bylaws is an internal governance procedure and is done in executive session.

**Community Happenings**

Council Member Erin Quinn encouraged residents to support the island's children by attending the elementary school's holiday performance at the fire station from 6:00-6:45 on Thursday, December 20th. The trucks will be moved out of the station and a stage will be set up.

Aaron Crosby stated that a Christmas Eve Service will be held at the First Union Baptist Church from 4:30-5:30. There also will be a Christmas Eve Service held at the Haig Point Mansion at 6:00.

Ms. Quinn reminded the public that a marathon (half, full, and ultra) will take place on the island on January 19, 2019. The money raised will go to the Daufuskie Island Historic Foundation and the Marsh Tacky Society.

### **Public Forum #1**

Aaron Crosby stated that Councilman Tabor Vaux has done an excellent job of filling the shoes of Wayne Newton, and has been especially supportive of Daufuskie Island. He thanked Tabor so much for what he has done, and there was applause by all in attendance.

Matt Keller asked if the Utility Vehicle Issue is still on the agenda for the upcoming year. Ms. Smith stated that State Representative Jeff Bradley has committed to helping with legislation in the 2019 state legislative session. The state legislature will begin its 2019 session in January, and will conclude in June. Mr. Vaux stated that most likely any state legislative action will need to be acted on by the county, as happened for the golf cart nighttime driving issue. He also said that Representative Bradley is researching legislative and regulatory options relating to this issue, including looking at other states' laws and that this issue is high on the radar.

Freddie Grant agreed with Aaron Crosby's remarks about the great job Mr. Vaux has done for Daufuskie and again thanked him for everything he has done for the island.

### **County Developments**

Mr. Vaux provided an overview of pending county issues impacting Daufuskie. He started out by addressing a few issues that had been brought to his attention when he had arrived on Daufuskie earlier in the day including: 1) Potholes and grading of the roads: Mr. Vaux said that he will ask county staff to assess both situations. 2) Status of the General Store: He was unaware that the General Store (owned by the county) had not already opened up and that the nearby bathrooms were not being maintained, and would look into this. He said that the proposed lease of the store by Daufuskie resident John Hill was recently approved by the county council. 3) RFP for the building formerly known as Marshside Mamas: Three bids were submitted for the renovation and operation of this building, and all would mean a new restaurant with alcohol sales permitted. He expects the county's decision will be made in January or February, after Mr. Lawson is sworn in and has the opportunity to participate in those discussions. 4) At the Francis Jones Park site, a contract has been approved to remove trees killed by the FEMA burn site, and also to grade and seed the site of the old dump so that there should be a level playing field suitable for an island ball park by Spring. Ms. Quinn added that donated bleachers for the park have been brought to the island. Ms. Smith mentioned that the DHEC soil test was conducted and the results were good.

Ms. Smith asked Casey Scott to provide comments on the new convenience center and said that the community feedback about this site have been very favorable. Casey stated that this center has been in the works for years. He was also pleased to report that there has been no illegal dumping at the old site. Casey also talked with the county administrator about expanding services to include maintenance of public trash cans at the county dock and the beach. Erin Quinn stated that there will also be donated trash cans. Casey stated that he is looking into large, raccoon-proof trash cans. Mr. Vaux said he would look into adding these expanded service through the county's contract with the Scotts.

Mr. Vaux stated that one complaint about road conditions came in to the county that week. Apparently, the roads were graded today.

A question (public member not identified) asked about the status of the Beach Road bathrooms. Mr. Vaux stated that it is hard to keep projects going with such a changeover of county administrators. Ms. Smith asked Mr. Vaux what the county is looking for in the RFP applications at the Marshside's building site. Mr. Vaux responded that the building should be available for community events. The three RFP bidders will be reviewed in January since the paperwork for all three is complete. The specific details for the long-term lease will be worked out. The selection will be made in February. One applicant is a full time Daufuskie resident, one is a part-time resident, and one is not a resident. Ms. Smith reported that John Hill had just informed her by text that he plans to open the General Store in January.

In describing his terms as a county council member, Mr. Vaux said that it had been "a fun six years." He also said that incoming member Mark Lawson is up-to-date on all major projects. He stated: "You will be in good hands." He also said he appreciates the support of the Daufuskie community.

Ms. Smith added that it has been refreshing to work with the County Council over the last several years as the Daufuskie policy reviews have been done in a courteous and respectful way. She also referenced the 2018 candidates forum where all candidates expressed their views in a civil and constructive manner.

Mark Lawson stated that he believes the three other newly elected representatives seem to be consistent in what they want to see happen for the citizens of the county.

Mr. Vaux stated that there is a pool of applicants applying for the county administrator's position. There have been two different factions on the council that has made choosing a new administrator difficult. He hoped that situation would change with the incoming class of elected officials, as they seemed to be generally open-minded and have common sense. In response to a question by Ms. Smith, Mr. Vaux said that there were two finalists for the administrator position, and the final candidate ultimately declined. Mr. Tom Weaver is the interim administrator, and the search continues for a permanent replacement.

Ms. Smith informed Mr. Lawson that the DI Council has no money for administrative costs including copying, mailings, etc. He indicated an interest in providing a line item in the county's budget to provide a modest stipend to the Daufuskie Council for such items.

## **Committee Updates**

### Elections Committee

Leanne Coulter spearheaded this committee. A new "Lady Liberty" poster was used to advertise the application date for community members running for council and the date of council elections. Election committee members include Pam Cobb, Vicky Price, Sara Deitch, and Jodee Brunning. The dates for upcoming elections include the following: Applicant due date is January 4th, ballots will be ready on January 12th, the candidates' forum will be on January 15th, and voting will be held on February 9th.

### Ferry Committee

Committee Chair Chris Sutcliffe had nothing to report.

### Roads Committee

Committee Chair John Schartner stated that the roads were graded today.

### Planning and Code Committee

Committee Chair Deborah Smith stated that the final reading of the plan was accepted, however there will be another reading of the code section in January due to technical changes requested by the county. Ms. Smith again thanked Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman who volunteered their services for a value of around \$200,000. The plan has been nominated for an award by the American Planning Association.

### Cultural and Historic Committee

Committee Chair Sallie Ann Robinson reported that work is continuing on implementation of additional phases of the Frances Jones Community park.

### Resource and Development Committee

Committee Chair James Bays stated that there are no updates. Ms Smith stated that this committee has done a great job with a variety of efforts, including the donation boxes.

### New Business

Several new business items were covered under previous agenda items. In addition, Ms. Robinson reported that there is a new fish cleaning and measuring station at the county dock. She reported that Darnell Brawner and others have worked on this project, and that it is appreciated.

### **Old Business**

Casey Scott was asked to provide an update on the Convenience Center. There will be a new sign with new days of operation, i.e., the Center will be open all days except on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Casey gave a big thank you to Patrick and Tad for their work in staffing the Center. Casey stated that he is working on implementing a more robust recycling program. Cardboard recycling has already begun, and plans are underway for other other materials.

Freddie Grant reported on the new UPS service. He stated that his cousin, Bobby Stevens, is the new provider and that Freddy is helping with deliveries. He stated that Mr. Stevens is doing a good job, and asked that residents ensure that that all packages are fully addressed, for example, with villa numbers and not just the street address, and with correct names. For questions, Bobbie Stevens' phone number is 843-707-2920.

### **New Business**

Ms. Smith stated that U.S. Representative-Elect Joe Cunningham will replace U.S. Representative Mark Sanford. Mr. Sanford has been very supportive of Daufuskie issues, and a thank you event is being planned so that the community can express its appreciation to him AND to Councilman Vaux.

### **Second Public Forum**

Pam Cobb raised concerns about the parking ticket prices going from \$30.00 to \$50.00 a month. Ms. Sutcliffe stated that if the parking fee for 2018 was paid by the last day of December 2017, the rate given was \$30 per month. If paid after that date, the rate was \$50 per month. She thought this was a reasonable price.

A resident asked about the number of parking spaces available for residents and if that would change. Chris Sutcliffe stated that the number went from 30 to 45 spaces for residents, and that number would not change.

A resident also asked how one goes from paying \$100.00 to \$50.00 and how the list for getting a resident parking sticker works. Chris Sutcliffe stated that the person needs to contact Judy Barth.

Ms. Smith suggested a December ferry committee meeting to review these issues, and Ms. Sutcliffe said she would work on scheduling one. stated that she would work on this.

Robyn Regan asked if as the island grows, will more parking be available?

Chris Sutcliffe answered that she did not think so, but was available to speak with anyone after the meeting.

Matt Keller stated that there has been some question about cost of items placed in the bins on the ferry. At one point, it was stated that if residents use bins, the resident should tip the mates. Now, it seems, that there is a fee associated with designated items, and that there is a list of the fees. He stated that he was told that the fees associated with these charges would need to be put on a

credit card. He stated that he would like to see a list of costs to decide whether to put items on the ferry or on the barge.

Aaron Crosby asked Tabor Vaux about the timing of the opening of the Marshside building. Tabor stated that once the terms of the contract are agreed on, the county council will hold three hearings to authorize the county administrator to sign the lease. Therefore, the signed lease will most likely be available in March.

Erin Quinn asked if since payment for bin charges could be charged on the boat, could one load more funds for Daufuskie Island ferry tickets on the boat using a credit card. Ms. Sutcliffe said that this would need to be asked of Judy Barth or of Richard Inglis at the Ferry Committee meeting.

Freddie asked if there was anyone working on the pothole issue on Melrose roads. He stated that a mortar mix does not work, and that this work needs to be done. Ms. Smith and Mr. Vaux explained that these privately-held properties were not under the control of the County; however, the Council agreed with Ms. Smith's recommendation that the Council officially communicate with the Melrose Resort owner's agent that this issue had come up at the Council meeting and that any efforts to fix the potholes in Melrose would be appreciated.

Deb Smith stated that the agent for the Melrose owner has recently put a fence around the old inn, and that some Melrose HOA members have undertaken individual efforts to address some of the potholes.

A community member mentioned that the children's concert would be held on Thursday, and asked if a ferry committee meeting would conflict with that. Since the children's concert on Thursday would conclude by 7:00, a ferry committee meeting could take place beginning at 7:30 on Thursday.

Mr. Bays stated that if a resident is paying for parking, there should be a spot for that resident. The summer seasons, with the influx of visitors, is especially challenging for residents who depend on parking spaces at the public ferry dock.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, Mr. Bays made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Mr. Schartner. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.