

**Daufuskie Island Council Meeting
January 15, 2019 – Mary Fields School**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Smith

Roll Call

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

Absent: James Bays

A majority of the members being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Freddie Grant

Invocation

Given by Council Member Sallie Ann Robinson

Spirit of Daufuskie Award

Chairperson Smith stated that last year the Council launched the Spirit of Daufuskie Award, given to individuals and groups who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of service to the Daufuskie community. 2018 recipients included Pat Beichler for her decades of service to Daufuskie including establishing the community farm, Tammy Helmuth and the Daufuskie Island Turtle Team for their dedication to protecting Loggerhead Turtle and other sea turtles, and Laura Winholt and Karen Opderbeck for their years-long work to develop the One-Island Solution for island waste management (the foundation for the recently-launched Island Convenience Center), and for their efforts on behalf of the island's feral cat program.

Ms. Smith said that the Council is now pleased to present the Spirit of Daufuskie Award to island property owners BEVERLY DAVIS AND SONNY TIMMERMAN for partnering with the DI Council on a state-mandated review and revision of

the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code. The award was also given to RS&H (Beverly's Savannah-based company) and the Ecological Planning Group for their work on behalf of this almost two-year process.

Ms. Smith said that the in-kind value of this collaborative project on behalf of Daufuskie was approximately \$200,000.

Beverly, Sonny, and their team used their professional expertise and resources to spearhead this community-based effort to update and simplify both the Plan and the Code. The Code has received final approval by the Beaufort Council, and the Plan is expected to receive final approval by the end of this month. The quality of work by Beverly, Sonny, and their team is reflected in the Plan's nomination for a national award from the American Planning Association, and especially the Awards Jury which made a special mention and commendation for the initiative's community-based approach. In addition, at last week's County Council meeting, the effort was publicly praised by the lead staff person who said that the process should be used as a model by other communities.

Working with the Council's Daufuskie Island Plan and Code Committee, Beverly and Sonny's helped the community develop the major initiative goals:

- Preservation of community character
- Balance growth and development with the existing community character
- Promote a sustainable economy compatible with existing community character
- Preserve and enhance community assets, including the natural beauty of the island
- Promote environmental stewardship
- Preserve the island history and culture, including a focus on the native Gullah heritage

Sonny and Beverly's work included:

- 4 presentations to the County Council and attendance at numerous County meetings when the revised Plan and Code were discussed.
- 3 community workshops
- 2 community surveys, both hard copy and online
- 8 meetings of the project advisory committee (the Daufuskie Island Council's Plan and Code Committee)
- Multiple presentations to the Daufuskie Island Council meetings.
- Numerous personal outreach efforts to groups and individuals

Copies of both the revised Plan and Code can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.daufuskiecouncil.com/daufuskie-plan-review>. Daufuskie Islanders will find much more user-friendly and stream-lined documents than the previous versions, and these documents will serve the community well in the

years and decades to come as individuals and companies seek guidance with both small and large development projects.

With great appreciation and on behalf of the entire Daufuskie community, the Council congratulated Beverly, Sonny, RS&H, and the Ecological Planning Group for a job well done. Everyone attending the meeting gave a round of applause.

Public Forum # 1

Ms. Smith explained that the Council has been offering two public forums at each council meeting. The public forums are meant for public comments and suggestions. Members of the public may ask to not have their names recorded in the minutes.

No comments were made by the public during this forum.

General Announcements

By-Laws Change: Size of Council

Chairperson Smith reported that at the Council's Executive Session meeting on January 7th, the Council voted to approve a By-Laws change that lowered the number of Council members from nine to seven. Ms. Smith summarized the rationale for this decision as follows:

1) Especially considering Daufuskie Island's relatively small population, a nine-member Council is disproportionately large and unwieldy in terms of coordinating member schedules, meeting times, etc.

2) In comparison (and according to 2017 statistics), nearby communities have much smaller elected bodies in proportion to their populations:

- Tybee Island has 5 council members for 3127 residents (one council member for approximately every 625 residents)
- Bluffton has 5 council members for 21,000 residents (one council member for approximately every 4000 residents)
- Hilton Head has 7 council members for 40,000 residents (one council member for approximately every 6000 residents)

In contrast, Daufuskie has had 9 council members for about 400 full time residents, i.e., one council member for approximately every 44 residents.

3) The trend over the past decade shows that it has often been difficult to field a large number of committed candidates for the Council, thereby reducing the community's ability to play a role in the selection of island officials through

competitive elections. This is not surprising, considering that 4 percent of our population has had to run for election to simply fill available seats, and a greater percentage to provide an actual choice for voters.

In the course of Council deliberations about this matter, valid concerns were raised about whether or not a smaller Council would increase the work load on the elected members, as well as concerns about imposing this change on future Councils. To that end, the 2018 Council is sharing two recommendations with the 2019 Council (which will include four overlapping members):

Recommendation #1: The 2018 Council was successful in recruiting a number of key community volunteers, such as for important projects and tasks, and these volunteers were an integral part of our overall efforts and achievements. This initiative should be expanded and developed into a more robust volunteer program providing greater opportunities for community support of Council activities.

Recommendation #2: There should be a reassessment of this by-laws change in the latter half of 2019, with an eye to reverting to the 9-member Council if it seems advisable.

Ms. Smith also stated that some Council Members are concerned that the the current 3-year term may deter some individuals from running for the Council, and that the 2019 Council may want to review the terms of office.

Additional By-Laws Revisions

Council Member Coulter led the By-laws revision effort along with Council Members Erin Quinn and Chris Sutcliffe, and public member Aaron Crosby. Ms. Coulter stated that the mission of the committee was to reduce redundancy and that most changes were modest and intended to clarify existing language. Following review by her committee, the full Council considered the recommendations and the subsequent changes were approved by the required 75 percent of the Council.

Included in the changes were:

Elections Process: A photo ID was added to the eligibility for candidacy. A rental agreement or utility bill would also work for eligibility as long as the candidate was a full-time resident. The application must be filled out in full by the due date. If a vacancy occurs, the next highest vote-getter will fill the vacancy. That person would fill the vacancy until the next regular election, and then the person filling the vacancy would need to run for re-election.

Role of Chairperson: The roles and responsibilities of Chairperson were revised. Previously, the Chairperson had authority to make policy decisions between monthly meetings. The revised version now requires the full Council to vote on any policy matters.

Ms. Smith stated that a great amount of work went into the bylaws revision, and thanked all those who participated in this effort.

Community Happenings

Council Member Erin Quinn stated that the Daufuskie Island Marathon would take place on Saturday, January 19th.

Ms. Smith stated that the Council will sponsor a reception to thank former U.S. Representative Mark Sanford and former Beaufort County Councilman Tabor Vaux at the Beach Club Restaurant in the upcoming month. As both public officials were very supportive of Daufuskie community concerns, an appreciation event seemed in order. The event specifics will be posted when available.

Committee Updates

Ferry Committee – Committee Chair Chris Sutcliffe reported that the last meeting of the committee was a productive one. One very positive development is that now pharmacies can deliver prescriptions to the Buckingham Landing dock, and the package will then be brought over to Daufuskie without charge by the Ferry Company. The minutes from the last Ferry Committee meeting are posted on the Council's webpage. Ms. Sutcliffe announced that there will be another meeting at 5:30 pm, Thursday, January 17th at 5:30 at the Mary Field School.

DI Plan and Code Committee – Committee Chair Deborah Smith Ms. Smith asked consultants Sonny Timmerman and Beverly Davis to provide a report. They reminded everyone that the Plan has already received final approval by the County Council, and said that the second reading of the Code change happened yesterday. Third and final reading of the code changes is expected to happen next week. Ms. Smith said that the documents are available on a dedicated page on the Council's website. (<https://www.daufuskiecouncil.com/daufuskie-plan-review>)

Cultural and Historic Committee (includes Frances Jones Park Phase II) – Committee Chair Sallie Ann Robinson reported that the county will grade and seed the area where the trash center used to be, opening the way for a ballpark.

Resources Development Committee – Committee Chair James Bays was absent, so Committee member Erin Quinn reported that more than \$40.00 has recently been raised from the collection boxes. The money raised will go toward the park.

Roads Committee – Council Member John Schartner stated that there was nothing to report.

2019 Council Elections

Committee Chair Leanne Coulter reported that the following are members of the election committee: Pam Cobb, Sarah Deitch, Jodee Brunning, and Vicky Price.

For the 2019 elections, the terms of Deborah Smith, Chris Sutcliffe, and Erin Quinn are up. None of these Council Members are running for re-election, and with the reduced size of the Council from 9 to 7 members, that creates three vacancies on the Council. The election will be held from 9:00 am -4:00 pm on Saturday, February 9th at the Mary Field School. Election Committee member Jodee Brunning will receive mail-in ballots which will be sealed until Saturday morning. A Columbia law firm has agreed to provide pro bono assistance for electronic ballots, and will be setting up a designated email address for that purpose.

Chairperson Smith stated that although we have three candidates for three open seats, an election is still being held to demonstrate that we are holding an official election, and these candidates were properly elected. She urged everyone to vote in the election to show others that Daufuskie Islanders really did participate in the selection of the island's Council.

Ms. Smith introduced the three candidates: Brandy Breese, Steve Hill, and Roger Pinckney, and asked each to introduce themselves.

- Ms. Breese stated that she has lived on the island for seven years. She stated that as a resident of the Historic District, she would especially represent the concerns of community and that if anyone needed to speak with her, just flag her down.
- Mr. Hill stated that he was a council member from 2015-2018 and that he has been on the island full-time from 2013. He stated that he discussed with his family his decision to run. He stated that he is aware of the community's needs for the near future and that he has council administrative experience. He also added that the credibility of the Council has steadily grown and he'd like to help keep that going.

- Mr. Pinckney stated that his knowledge of Daufuskie began in 1956 when he accompanied his father, who was an employee of the power company and who helped bring electricity to Daufuskie. He has been a full-time resident for twenty years. He loves the island and the people. He stated that he helped to obtain public access to the beach and helped get the the county dock built. He has good relationships with many county and state officials. Mr. Pinckney also stated that he believes preserving the culture and protecting the island's Gullah population should always be a priority. He wants to see uninterrupted public access to water and roads.

Ms. Coulter stated that the council worked well together this past year, and she looks forward to working with the new council.

County/Other Infrastructure Developments

Ms. Smith stated that it has been a lengthy and sometimes frustrating process to deal with the county on various infrastructure issues. Regarding the Council's request for trash containers/service at locations such as the County Dock, Beach Road, and the Frances Jones Park, there has been a favorable development, according to a call Ms. Smith had just received from the Public Works department. The County has received a grant that includes funding for two bear-safe trash containers, to be placed at the end of Beach Road and at the County Dock, and these should be available by late Spring.

Ms. Smith asked the County staff who will service them, and the staff person said she didn't know. There is a proposal by the Scotts to service the trash containers as an expansion of their current Convenience Center Contract, but it has not been approved. The challenge now seems to be getting County support for picking up the trash at these sites and two others: the Park and Melrose Landing. Ms. Smith has reached out to County Councilman Mark Lawson, and he said he would call the County Administrator about the matter. Ms. Smith stated that we may finally be close to getting this issue resolved.

The renovation/construction of the County Dock restrooms and new restrooms at Beach Road, as well as servicing the Beach Road and park restrooms is still pending and will be a continuing challenge for the 2019 Council.

Utility Vehicles Issues

Chairperson Smith stated that she had talked earlier in the day to State Representative Jeff Bradley concerning the utility vehicles issue. Representative Bradley had a meeting scheduled the next day with the SC Attorney General to ask for some clarification and assistance with this issue. Representative

Bradley's goal is to develop legislative language that will be deemed acceptable by both legislators and law enforcement agencies.

Anti-litter Efforts

Ms. Smith also gave an update on litter pick-up. The county is sending a crew out this week to pick-up trash along the roadways, and island residents were encouraged to thank them for their efforts. The county says they still may provide some anti-litter signs. She also said that Vicky Price has expressed interest in working on an anti-campaign for the island.

Federal Express Problems

Ms. Smith said that the Council is working on a solution to an issue raised at an earlier meeting: Problems caused by Federal Express's policies for Daufuskie Island. Federal Express currently only delivers packages to residents of the private Haig Point residential community. Lack of access to Fed Ex shipments cuts off access for many Daufuskie residents for important goods. In addition, Federal Express maintains a data base of locations that have access to their services, and this list is used by suppliers/shippers in determining which service to use for their shipments. Although Federal Express ONLY ships to Haig Point's Hilton Head dock area, and not to the rest of the island, the company continues to include Daufuskie Island on the list of locations that can receive their packages. Consequently, on a regular basis local residents have packages sent by merchants or other shippers that utilize Federal Express...and then that package is rejected and returned the shipper. Repeated requests to Federal Express to remove Daufuskie from that list have not been successful.

Ms. Smith said that she has been in communication with U.S. Senator Tim Scott's office about these matters, and the Senator's staff will be reaching out to the Federal Express' corporate offices.

Public Forum #2

Matt Keller asked why Representative Bradley turned the UTV issue over to the South Carolina attorney general. Ms. Smith responded that Representative Bradley was told by the DMV that his proposed legislative remedy may be jeopardized by liability concerns for the state. It is Representative Bradley's hope that the South Carolina Attorney General can be involved in drafting legislative language that will help avoid any liability concerns.

Matt Keller also stated that members of the public should read the minutes from the last Ferry Committee meeting. Matt Keller stated that Captain Richard said that he had to increase ferry ridership by 20%. Matt Keller also reported that

Captain Richard stated that ferry riders, when parking at the Melrose landing, could be charged. Ms. Sutcliffe encouraged everyone to attend Thursday's Ferry Committee meeting at Mary Field School.

Council Member Robinson stated that there are vehicles blocking spaces at Melrose landing. It was suggested that someone talk to the sheriff about abandoned vehicles.

Ms. Smith said she wanted to update folks on a request made by Freddie Grant at the last Council meeting. Mr. Grant had asked if the Council could do something about the bad potholes in both Melrose and the Oakridge area. Although these are privately owned properties/roads and not under the jurisdiction of the County, the Council had promised to contact the Melrose owner about that property. Ms. Smith said she had communicated with Mr. Arie Zoller, the agent for the resort owner, and he promised to take a look at the pothole situation on Melrose during a visit in February. In addition, Ms. Smith said there have been several volunteers working on the pothole situation, and some of them have been filled in.

Ms. Smith also said that Mr. Zoller asked Ms. Smith to tell the community that the new security fence around the Inn has been breached by vandals, and asks the community who may see any trespassers to please report this to the Sheriff's department.

Vanessa Bramlett said she is a new property owner, and is trying to rent her cottage for vacationers. She said that there is a big problem for rental properties on Daufuskie because VRBO now groups Daufuskie properties in with thousands of Hilton Head properties, which makes it more difficult for vacationers to find available rental homes on our island. She requested the Council to talk with Senator Scott's staff about helping with this corporate issue, along with the Federal Express issue.

Ms. Rene Orahood thanked the three Council Members who are not running for re-election, and said that the Council has been doing a great job and everyone's efforts are appreciated.

Ms. Smith stated it has been a privilege to serve the community in this role, and that she especially appreciated the great teamwork and efforts by her fellow Council Members.

Ms. Sutcliffe stated that she was delighted to have gotten to know more people around the island.

Ms. Quinn stated that she was pleased to have done something useful. She stated that she loves the community and that if you love something, you should take part in it.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone in the community and on the Council, and talked about how much she loves the island and all who help make it a great place.

Freddie Grant questioned the charge for ferry dock parking and asked if this was for day use or if the charge was for overnight parking. Ms. Smith referred to Ms. Sutcliffe's previous comments and encouraged people concerned about ferry issues to attend Thursday's meeting. She also said that Captain Richard Inglis expects to attend that meeting and will be available to answer questions.

Ms. Smith said that she would like to close her last meeting by encouraging the community to be as involved as possible in the Council efforts. She shared a quote by Thomas Jefferson:

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schartner so moved, and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.