

# **Daufuskie Island Council February 20, 2018 Meeting**

## **Minutes**

Pastor Aaron Crosby offered an invocation including a prayer of thanks for those who ran and those who voted, for wisdom for those on the council, and for unity.

Council Member Sallie Ann Robinson led the room in saying the Pledge of Allegiance

There was an introduction and congratulations to newly-elected Council Members, John Hill and Leanne Coulter, and to James Bays, for his re-election to the Council

As a result of two resignations (Charlie Small and Maureen Devine), the Council voted to add the next two election runner-ups to the Council: Christine Sutcliffe and Erin Quinn. The Council wished the best and thanks to Mr. Small and Ms. Devine.

The formal roll call was then conducted with the following 2018 Session Council Members present:

- James Bays
- Darnell Brawner
- Leanne Coulter
- John Hill
- Sallie Ann Robinson
- Erin Quinn
- John Schartner
- Deborah Smith
- Christine Sutcliffe

The newly-elected officers of the Council are:

- Deborah Smith, Chair
- Sallie Ann Robinson, Vice Chair
- John Schartner, Treasurer
- John Hill, Secretary

Letters from United States Senator Tim Scott and State Representative Jeff Bradley were read. Each congratulated the winners of the election and pledged their continued support of the Council's activities on behalf of Daufuskie.

Ms. Sutcliffe provided a summary of her initiative to educate the Daufuskie community about a program providing a membership to Air Methods Advantage that pays the cost of an emergency helicopter evacuation beyond what primary insurance covers. (Recent

charges for emergency evacuation have been \$39,000.) Ms. Sutcliffe is coordinating presentations about this program at Mary Fields School on Monday, 26 February, at 10 AM for this informative presentation and Tuesday, February 27th, at 10 AM in the Board Room at the Haig Point Club House.

Ms. Smith expressed a pledge on behalf of the entire Council to the Daufuskie community to work together in a united fashion and to represent all property owners, regardless of where they lived. Other Council Members also expressed support for a unity approach, including Mr. Hill, Mr. Bays, and Ms. Robinson.

The Council plans to promote a stronger role for community volunteers for Council initiatives, and there has already been an offer from Clemson University to provide organizational expertise and Ms. Meghan Prosser to serve as the Council's official photographer.

The Council will be holding a meeting in the near future to set goals for the year, continue a review of the by-laws, and develop the committee and projects structure for the remainder of the year. In the meantime, the 2017 committee structure will continue.

Ms. Smith read a letter from Casey Scott (Dolphin Shared MGMT Services) informing the Council that the company is in active negotiations with Beaufort County relating to a contract that would result in the Francis Jones dump being shut down, and new and improved trash services...including recycling and staffing...provided at the Melrose transfer station. Ms. Robinson said that with the removal of the current dump, the community park could be greatly expanded and potentially include amenities such as a ballpark and camping grounds. The new trash center proposal was greeted by applause by those in attendance.

Mr. Hill reported that the General Store at the County Dock will soon be re-opening and that local artisans and others are once again invited to display their products.

Mr. Schartner, Chair of the new Council's new County Dock Pavilion Committee, reported that a meeting with Council Attorney Bob Arundell is scheduled for February 27th. Mr. Arundell had requested information from Beaufort County about permitting, costs, and legal obligations relating to a potential transfer from the County to the Council or another entity of the pavilion building at the county dock. He now has answers to those questions and will share them with Council representatives. Other members of this committee are Mr. Hill and Ms. Robinson.

A proposal for a private lease arrangement for the building for the purpose of a restaurant has been presented to the county and forwarded to Mr. Arundell to share with Council members. The proposal was made by Bill and Casey Scott. Other proposals will also be welcomed, but first the Council will need to clarify with the County who will be responsible for ownership of the property.

Mr. Brawner (Amenities Committee) reported that his committee is reviewing options for improving (and perhaps moving) the Historic District postal station.

Ms. Robinson (Chair, Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee) reported that DHEC has given final approval to the utilities for the new Francis Jones Memorial Park, and that a ribbon-cutting event will be planned.

Mr. Bays (Chair, Resources Committee) is working with Ms. Robinson on a fund-raising initiative for amenities for the new park.

Mr. Brawner (Chair, Solid Waste Facility) showed a powerpoint presentation on the island's Francis Jones Road dump, including requests to the County for certain upgrades such as burying power lines. These proposed upgrades may be modified so that they don't conflict with the potential relocation of the solid waste services to the Melrose Transfer station.

Mr. Schartner (Chair, Roads Committee) introduced Mr. Bill Scott, who reported that he will be sponsoring an event involving local high school kids who will help remove asphalt chunks on several Historic District roads. The event will serve as a fundraiser for the kids' upcoming community project trip to New York. The initiative was applauded by those in attendance.

County Councilman Tabor Vaux said that he will not be running for re-election in November, but that he planned to educate all candidates about Daufuskie. In the meantime, he will continue Daufuskie priorities established in conjunction with Council leadership two years ago. (For reference, here are those goals :

#### Immediate Goals

1. Daufuskie Community Park: Complete restrooms and nature trail.
2. Build public restrooms servicing Daufuskie beach at foot of Beach Road
3. Tear down and build improved public restroom at county landing

#### Mid-Term Goals

1. Consolidate solid waste collection to single island solution.
2. Revise/rework Daufuskie Island Plan with vision for island at mid-century (2050).

#### Long-Term Goals

1. Continue establishing right-of-way on roadways identified in Daufuskie Plan
  - a. Develop right-of-way plan and timeline
2. Establish suitable ferry embark/disembark on Hilton Head/Mainland to accommodate island residents and visitors.
3. Work with SC Congressional delegation to change CoBRA designation.

Mr. Vaux also addressed the County Dock Pavilion issue, and said he has reviewed a proposal by Dolphin Shared MGMT Services, which he believes has merit. He forwarded that proposal to the Council's attorney, Bob Arundell, who will be sharing it

with DI Council Members. Mr. Vaux said he will continue to support the Council's efforts to work through the ownership questions and responsibilities of the property.

#### Public Forum

Comment: Ms. Vicki Price addressed issues relating to the public ferry service. She complimented the great boat service, and especially the reliable times of service and the courteous and helpful staff. She also expressed concern about the \$100 parking fee for residents who have not yet received one of the designated resident parking spots, and especially frustration about the recent increase to cover tax.

Council Response: The Council takes all concerns such as these seriously, but given the recent turnover, including loss of the Council's Ferry Committee Chair, asks for time to look into this.

Roger Pinckney expressed opposition to the Bloody Point Home Owners Association installing a sign at the entrance to Bloody Point saying "Private Roads: Residents Only." He said that at the time the Bloody Point Resort was developed there was an agreement that the Bloody Point cemetery and the Mungin River would always be accessible to the public via Fuskie Lane; that had been the practice for the past 29 years; and that conveyance had been recognized by the Beaufort County as a public beach access road. Ms. Sylvia Wampler confirmed that historical chronology. Mr. Pinckney asked that for a show of hands by those attending the meeting expressing support for maintaining free, open, and unrestricted access, and a majority of those in attendance raised their hands.

Councilman Vaux said that he had sent the information provided to the county attorney for review.

Council Response: The Council voted to consider this item a priority matter to review, including giving the Bloody Point Home Owners Association (and any others) the opportunity to comment on the matter.

Aaron Crosby said that a tendency of political bodies is to stop trying to reach consensus once a block of votes for any issue has been reached. He said that the real work should begin after that point so that consensus can be reached by the maximum number of members.

Council Response: Great observation, and comment appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.