

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting
February 19, 2019
MINUTES

Call to order by Vice Chair Sallie Ann Robinson at 6:00pm

Roll Call

Council Members present:

Robert Levis
Steve Hill
Leanne Coulter
Sallie Ann Robinson
John Schartner
Brandy Breese Roger Pinckney

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Blessing (Pastor Aaron Crosby)

Public Forum #1

Mr. Aaron Crosby congratulated new members and discussed the status of the mailboxes at Mary Field School (on church-owned property). The church agreed to have the mailboxes moved to the Mary Field School from the county property by Marshside Mama's several years ago as a temporary solution. The US Postal Service recently requested that additional boxes be added and the church has declined. Mr. Crosby reiterated that this was a temporary, not a permanent solution and hopes that a better solution will be proposed. He remarked that the USPS does not deliver door-to-door on Daufuskie and said that if the mailbox area was improved (with a roof, for example) he may reconsider, adding that the people of Daufuskie deserve a better place to collect their mail.

Council Member Roger Pinckney suggested that a system for sending outgoing mail be considered.

Mr Casey Scott commented that on the last few Daufuskie Island Council agendas, County involvement with trash pick-up from the island's public areas has been discussed but not resolved. Mr. Scott stated that his company has submitted a bid to the county for these

services, and as the proposed vendor, he needs community support and wants to see it done before the high season begins.

Council Member John Schartner said that the discussion on this issue is ongoing and that there are two departments at the County level that are involved.

Ms. Deborah Smith stated that she had spoken about this matter with incoming County Council Member Mark Lawson in January and that he had in turn spoken with David Wilhelm, Director of Beaufort County's Public Works Department.

Ms. Robinson confirmed that the Council will follow up on this issue.

Ms. Smith congratulated the new council saying that "the community is in good hands!"

General Announcements

1) Daufuskie Island Council Election Results

Council Member Leanne Coulter presented the Daufuskie Island Council election results as follows: 142 votes broken down as follows: 12 by mail, 20 by email, 110 in person, 67 women, 75 men.

Votes received:

Brandy Breese - 113
Steve Hill - 96
Roger Pinckney - 71
Robert Levis (write-in) - 64

The Council's Elections Committee included public members Jodee Brunning, Sara Deitch, Pam Cobb, and Council liaison members Leanne Coulter and Deborah Smith. Additional help on Election Day was provided by Nancy Kimball, Maureen Devine, and Nancy Ludtke.

Ms. Coulter was pleased to see such a large turnout and encouraged community members to participate in the Council's 2019 session by lending their time and expertise.

2) Appreciation Reception

Council Member Steve Hill gave a recap of the Council's February 1st legislative appreciation event at the Melrose Beach Club. Honored were Tabor Vaux (outgoing Beaufort County Council Member) and Mark Sanford (outgoing U.S. Congressman). About 40 people attended. Speeches were made and mementos (photos on canvas of their visits

to Daufuskie) were presented to the honorees. Tabor Vaux's father and Mark Lawson (new Beaufort County Council Member) were also in attendance.

Community Happenings

Mr. Hill reported on upcoming events including:

Saturday, February 23 - Veterinarian visit at the Helmus Center at Haig Point This will be monthly. Time: 9:00 am until 3:00 pm Services provided: Basic veterinary services will be provided including heart worm testing, flea and tick control, and vaccinations.

Wednesday, March 6 at 4:00pm - Daufuskie Island Conservancy annual meeting at Daufuskie to be held at Wine and Woodworks.

Sunday, March 10 at 2:00am - Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time.

Saturday, March 16th - St. Patrick's Day boat trips to Savannah by Daufuskie Difference.

Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00pm - next Daufuskie Island Council meeting at Mary Field School.

Barbers of the Lowcountry will begin monthly visits (haircuts for men and women) in March. Sponsored by Tony Chase, the mobile shop will park at the Daufuskie Island Rum Company.

Mr. Schartner noted that Coastal Cuts by Lori Rush, a new hairstyling business, will begin on Friday February 22 at the Mary Field School. See the announcement on Nextdoor Daufuskie.

Committee and Projects Reports

1) Finance report

Mr. Schartner reported that the Council's General Fund contains \$1708.55 and that a dedicated Frances Jones Fund contains \$ 1,501.75

2) Park Update

Former Council Member Erin Quinn provided an update on the park on Frances Jones Boulevard, saying that it is being developed in phases.

The playground work continues; Mr. Joe Davis has been retained by the county to remove the dead trees. DHEC soil tests from the former “dump” area were performed and the soil was deemed safe. The field will be graded and seeded; bleachers, bike racks, benches and trash cans have been donated. The county owns the property and has committed a volunteer to submit the footprint of the park for approval.

Sallie Ann Robinson commented on the liability issue and that the county has a vested interest in the property from a safety standpoint.

Casey Scott stated that there are already five playgrounds on the island and asked if this one was necessary. Darnell Brawner voiced his support for the new playground as did Dennis Mobley. Mr. Scott expressed his concern for the island’s reputation with the County for asking for something that we already have.

John Schartner added that with the county’s expertise, this will be one of the better parks.

Sallie Ann Robinson clarified that the land was intended to be a park and Leanne Coulter added that the \$20,000 grant was specifically earmarked for this park on this property.

Sallie Ann Robinson suggested getting the word out about the new park and said that the area should be protected until it is ready to open to the public.

ACTION ITEM: Work on the restrooms continues. Mark Lawson (Beaufort County Council) will follow up.

ACTION ITEM: John Coulter noted that a backstop and benches have been requested for the new field by community member Terry Elrod.

John Schartner then asked John Coulter to join the Park Committee.

Public Ferry - Leanne Coulter

Leanne Coulter read a summary provided by Chris Sutcliffe. The Daufuskie Island Ferry Company is considering charging businesses that park vehicles overnight at the Melrose Landing; prescription medication will be transported by ferry at no charge; Palmetto Breeze is considering shuttle service from the Beaufort County’s Bluffton Administration Complex parking lot to Buckingham Landing during the busy season.

County’s Request for Proposals (RFP) for the former location of Marshside Mama’s received three bids. The county requested written proposals then requested oral

presentations. Two of the three bidders participated. The Public Facilities department will make their decision then take it to the Beaufort County Council for their decision.

John Hill is working on the store at the public landing. A wall was removed to provide more space. The store will open this spring. The public restrooms are open.

Roger Pinckney asked the Council members if they knew who owns the Melrose Landing. The property is owned by Redfish Holdings. He then asked if they were aware that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has an outstanding fine against the owner for the fuel tanks. He stated that the tanks are aging and that they may hold diesel fuel that is an environmental hazard.

John Coulter agreed that the fuel tanks must be remediated.

John Schartner asked Steve Hill if he had any further information. Steve said that the owner is aware of the situation.

Roger Pinckney added that the fine increases as time goes by and that the property cannot be transferred with a pending fine.

Deborah Smith suggested that the owner of the Melrose Landing be sent a letter to let him know that the Council is aware of the situation.

Sallie Ann Robinson asked about wheelchair access on the public ferry as she had received a call from a retired veteran who would like to visit or possibly relocate.

Steve Hill commented that a portable ramp has been purchased and should be in place soon. Chris Sutcliffe suggested that he alert the Daufuskie Island Ferry Company of his needs.

Utility Vehicles Update

Council Member Roger Pinckney reported that State Representative Jeff Bradley is working on an exemption for Daufuskie for the operation of utility vehicles and that it will be a process as the legislation is considered by committees. Ms. Deborah Smith said that the Legislative Research Committee has been assigned to develop language for the bill. She noted that Ms. Melissa Davis had sent an email to Representative Bradley that had resulted some revisions. The legislation is considered "local legislation" as it pertains to a specific district. Ms. Smith said that at the appropriate time, communications to their state representatives and senators from Daufuskie residents may be helpful.

Mr. Pinckney commented that the Utility Vehicle issue is the consequence of requests by some residents for greater police protection and the future thought should be given to the potential consequences of such requests. He described his own experience with a hunter friend who was pulled over by the Sheriff's department representative for driving an ATV on a public road. He also said that some people have received warnings for this type of infraction, and some have received tickets. Mr. Pinckney cautioned against the involvement of law enforcement unless the circumstances are dire and that to the best of his knowledge they have never disrupted a crime in progress.

Public Forum #2

Sallie Ann Robinson stated that the organizational meeting to elect the Daufuskie Island Council officers would be held soon, and that in the meantime as the 2018 Council Vice Chair she was asked to chair this meeting.

Mr. Aaron Crosby recommended diligence in pursuing the process of road ownership by the County.

Mr. Pinckney respond saying that if the county purchases some island roads and if the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority installs public water and sewer services, Historic District residents will be obligated to tie in and private wells and septic systems would be illegal.

Mr. Dennis Mobley and Mr. John Coulter expressed concern for the cost of tie ins when many homes are set back off the road.

Mr. Pinckney referred to the Haig Point pump station malfunctioning after Hurricane Matthew caused problems with toilet flushing while no such problem existed for those with private systems. He also said that the Daufuskie Island Utility Company will spread costs across the island.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Robinson at 7:04 pm.