

Daufuskie Island Council Meeting
June 20, 2017
Mary Fields School
Minutes

Chairman Chuck Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All of the Council members being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

Mr. Hunter introduced Special Guest Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director.

Mr. Hunter addressed two administrative items:

1. Patrick Ford, General Manager of the Bloody Point Resort, wanted the community to know that the McCarthy family is committed to keeping the resort facilities operational at least through the end of the year. Clubhouse operations, the Eagles Nest Restaurant and the golf course will be closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to the significant loss of employees after the potential resort buyers stated that the resort would be shut down after they purchased the property. (The sale did NOT go through.) Patrick and Tai Ford have committed to assisting the McCarthy family through this transitional time until a suitable buyer comes along.

2. The Council has adopted an Ethics Code and that document is posted on the Council's website's resources page. (<https://www.daufuskiemunicipal.com/council-documents-links>)

County Actions on Daufuskie Co-Op Lease of Marshside Mama's

Councilman Charlie Small reported that he has been involved in ongoing communications between the County and the Daufuskie Co-Op as it relates to the county's contract for the Marshside Mama's buildings. The Daufuskie Island Council recently approved a resolution supporting the renewal of the co-op's lease. About three weeks ago Councilman Vaux informed Mr. Small that there was "push back" by

some of the County council members about renewal of the lease and that an RFP for the sale or lease of the property might occur. Mr. Small tried several times to confirm the county's intention to issue this RFP but did not receive any response. All of the DI Council Members were surprised to learn this past Sunday that the County has indeed issued such an RFP. Mr. Small reiterated that the DI Council continues to support an extension of the county lease for this property with the Daufuskie Co-Op. He urged people to send emails to Councilman Vaux expressing concern about the proposed sale/lease of Marshside Mama's, and said that Mr. Vaux would forward those emails to other county leaders. Mr. Small also said that Tabor wants his name affixed to those supporting the resolution to renew the Marshside Mama's lease.

Committee Reports

Amenities Committee - Chairperson Darnell Brawner reported that there has been progress on construction of the drinking fountain at the county dock, and that it should be ready for Daufuskie Day this coming Saturday. There was a round of applause for this accomplishment.

Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee - Chairperson Sallie Ann Robinson reported that the committee had held a very productive meeting, and that there was a special focus on the development of the Francis Jones Park. Ms. Robinson said that there was a delay in the construction of the bathrooms and trails, and that Mr. Hunter (who is the contractor) reports that he is waiting on permit approvals by the County. Ms. Robinson also talked about Daufuskie Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, and urged residents to attend.

Ferry Committee - Chairperson Steve Hill reported that the committee met three weeks ago. The county contract with the Haig Point Company expires at the end of June, but the county has extended that contract by one month. The committee reviewed the service criteria expected from the current ferry provider, and the majority opinion was that the provider is meeting most of that criteria. There are concerns

about several items including in-service issues with Palmetto Breeze and a ferry schedule that does not always accommodate island residents who want to work off-island. Mr. Hill also reported that the school ferry contract expires this month and there are ongoing discussions for renewal of that contract between the county and the Haig Point Ferry Company.

Daufuskie Island Plan Review

Deborah Smith, Chairperson of the DI Plan & Review Committee, reported that pro bono consultants Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman have presented the Scope of Work plan for an update of the Plan to both the county's Planning Commission and the County Council's Natural Resources Committee. Ms. Smith encouraged all residents to play an active role in the process.

Mr. Tony Criscitello, Beaufort County Planning Director, spoke about the importance of periodically reviewing and updating a community's comprehensive use plan. He explained the process for gaining approval by the County for any plan changes recommended by the Daufuskie Island Council, starting with consideration of changes by the Planning Commission, review and approval by the Council's Natural Resources Committee, and review and approval by the full County Council. This process should be expected to take a minimum of four months. He stressed the importance of the upcoming DI Plan review, and encouraged participation by Daufuskie Island residents. He urged the participants to be bold in their thinking, to be ambitious in terms of what could and should be achieved through an improved plan, and to think seriously about self-governance instead of always relying on the county for assistance and policies.

Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman announced that the kick-off of the plan review process was today (June 20th), and that the first community workshop is scheduled for 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 29th at the Mary Field School. The Council's Committee on the DI Plan and Code will serve as the project advisory team, but that all committee members and council members will be participating as citizens in the process. The time table calls for the

final recommendations by the DI Council to be submitted to the County in May, 2018. Ms. Davis and Mr. Timmerman reiterated that a strong turn-out by the public is imperative if the effort is to be successful and credible.

Updates and announcements

Bailey Bill: Mr. Hill reported that the DI Council has been supporting passage of this measure through the County Council, but is working with county officials to strengthen the bill.

Off-Shore Drilling Proposal: Ms. Smith reported that the Council hopes to have a representative from a statewide environmental organization at the Council's next meeting to speak about the Administration's proposal to allow off-shore drilling in the VA/NC/SC/FL Atlantic coastal areas. Congressman Mark Sanford has introduced legislation to prohibit this practice and his office was also invited to send a representative.

Golf Cart Permitting Process - Mr. Hill reported that he successfully obtained a golf cart permit by following the mail-in process he had described at the last Council meeting. The fee was just \$5. This process will be shared with the community on the website and other sources.

Millage Increase for Daufuskie - Mr. Hill reported that the County's budget includes a millage increase of 1.83 percent for Daufuskie residents, and that this increase is primarily driven by funding increases for the Daufuskie Fire Department.

Palmetto Breeze passes - Mr. Hill reported that he is coordinating an opportunity on July 18th for Daufuskie residents to directly contact Monica Spells, Assistant County Administrator for Civic Engagement, to facilitate Palmetto Breeze passes.

Other Issues

Mr. Hunter once again stated that the DI Council is committed to keeping the lease for the Marshside Mama's property in local hands.

Council Brawner reported that a clean-up day for the trash center on Francis Jones Road was successful and that additional events would be held. He urged residents to use the trash center for legitimate reasons and to dispose of trash in the designated containers.

Mr. Hunter again raised the Marshside Mama's leasing issue and asked for comments from a Co-Op representative about the issue. Mr. Ed Campbell, head of the Co-Op, made a statement in which he thanked the DI Council...and especially Mr. Small...for its ongoing support on this issue. He expressed frustration that in spite of almost two years of communications with the County, and timely responses to requests for information on accounting and other issues, the Co-Op was caught off-guard by the County's RFP. He expressed concern that the RFP could lead to this county property going into private hands and Daufuskie residents losing an historic and important island asset.

Public Forum

A member of the public said the county dock area, including the Marshside Mama's building, was a great asset to the island and residents needed to oppose any measure that could lead to the location ending up in private or commercial hands.

Council Member John Schartner expressed the belief that the contract should be extended for five years, leaving the property under the control of the Daufuskie Co-Op, and that at the conclusion of that time oversight of the property should be given to the Daufuskie Island Council for meetings and events benefitting the community.

Council Members James Bayes, Steve Hill, Sallie Ann Robinson and Deborah Smith all made comments stressing the historic importance of the Marshside Mama's location and expressing support for keeping it in local hands.

Public Member Sean Devine (identified with his permission) suggested the Council investigate the legal ramifications of the County's attempts to sell

Marshside Mama's which has been a public facility for the past forty years to a private party. The Marshside Mama's property includes a public park and has been used as a public gathering place for decades. He pointed out that an argument could be made that the County is basically attempting to sell a public park to a private party without public approval.

A member of the public said that asphalt chunks continue to cause problems for residents traversing certain roads in the Historic District, and that she hoped progress would continue with the clean-up problem.

There being no further business, Mr. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Smith, Secretary
Email Approval by Council on June 22, 2017