COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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SPECIAL COUNSEL

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AGENDA
GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
(Includes Public Safety Division)
Monday, April 6, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Executive Conference Room
Administration Building
Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Governmental Committee Members:
Stu Rodman, Chairman
Rick Caporale, Vice Chairman
Cynthia Bensch
Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Alice Howard
Jerry Stewart

Staff Liaison:
Phil Foot, Assistant County Administrator
Public Safety

1. CALL TO ORDER – 4:00 P.M

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH SENATOR TOM DAVIS

3. DISCUSSION / BEAUFORT COUNTY SALES TAX REFERENDUM

4. DISCUSSION / MANDATORY DEVOLUTION OF STATE ROADS (backup)

5. DISCUSSION / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING:
   A. Reflections on Input from Municipalities at March 23 Work Session
   B. Alliances

6. CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS
   A. Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority

7. ADJOURNMENT

2015 Strategic Plan Committee Assignments
County Economic Development Policy Framework, Strategy and Action Plan
Heritage / Historic Tourism Plan: Development, Action Plan
Business License: Direction on Funding Source for Economic Development

The County Channel

RESOLUTION 2015 /

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE FUNDING NEEDS FOR STATE MAINTAINED AND OPERATED ROADS AND BRIDGES WITHOUT TRANSFERRING THE BURDEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OPPOSING ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THROUGH LACK OF STATE FUNDING WILL LEAD TO INCREASED TAXES ON THE CITIZENS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Beaufort County, along with the vast majority of citizens, acknowledges that South Carolina's infrastructure is in desperate need of repairs and funding sources; and

WHEREAS, it is widely understood that the State has failed to sufficiently address and fund road and bridge projects over the years; and

WHEREAS, only 10% of the non-federal aid eligible secondary roads assigned for transfer are in good condition while 90% are in fair or poor condition, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is in a much better position to assess the needs and to perform the necessary maintenance on these roads in the state system, and

WHEREAS, H. 3579 claims that the dumping of State roads onto counties is "optional" and comes with "adequate" funding, but the option is left to the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and not the County Council and the proposed funding is insufficient to repair and maintain the nearly 19,000 miles of roads; and

WHEREAS, devolving this authority onto an appointed body renders this legislation constitutionally suspect; and

WHEREAS, if the CTC does not refuse the roads, then the County is forced to accept the financial responsibility, maintenance, and liability of the roads; and

WHEREAS, the bill places too much power with the CTC, which is not liable or accountable to the taxpayers if the funding is insufficient or if the CTC elects to spend the money on other projects such as state-owned roads; and

WHEREAS, insufficient funding would result in a potential local tax increase on County citizens to pay for maintenance and repair on the deteriorating roads; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Beaufort County Council that it is opposed to any legislative efforts to transfer state-owned roads to local governments and requests that all members of the South Carolina General Assembly refuse further consideration of any proposed legislation.

DONE this ___ day of April, 2015.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By:_____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman