County Council Meeting
Beaufort County, SC

Council Chambers, Administration Building
Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Monday, December 8, 2025
6:00 PM

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alice Howard, Chair
Anna Maria Tabernik, Vice-Chair
David P. Bartholomew
Paula Brown
Logan Cunningham
Gerald Dawson
York Glover
Mark Lawson
Lawrence McElynn
Joseph Passiment
Thomas Reitz

1. CALL TO ORDER: Alice Howard, Chair
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Gerald Dawson, Council Member
3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOIA: Alice Howard, Chair
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
    a. Minutes from Caucus and County Council November 10, 2025.
6. PROCLAMATION
    a. Proclamation recognizing Dr. Caroline Fermin as a recipient of the 2025 Women Veteran Trailblazers Initiative Award - *Chair Alice Howard*
    b. Proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge - *Council Member York Glover*
7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 30 MINUTES TOTAL
9. LIAISON AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
    - Community Services Committee
    - Natural Resources Committee
    - Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

- Public Facilities Committee

10. DISCUSSION

    a. Discussion concerning a request by a County Council member to address whether signs should be place at the entryway of certain county-owned buildings to inform the public that firearms and concealable firearms are prohibited in public buildings.

11. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Items Originating from the Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

    1. Approval to purchase two (2) Type-1 F-450 ambulances intended to replace assets #38346 and #40272 for Beaufort County Emergency Medical Services.

    2. Approval to purchase a Knuckle Boom Truck for Solid Waste and Recycling ($206,736.10)

    3. Approval to Contract & Purchase Hardware, Software, and Maintenance for Beaufort County Data Center Upgrade

    4. Appointment of Council Member Anna Maria Tabernik to the Beaufort Economic Development Corporation Board to fill the County Council Seat.

b. Items Originating from the Public Facilities and Safety Committee

    1. Approval of a contract change order to Wood and Partners for additional permitting requirements for the Camp St. Mary's Park development project (Fiscal Impact: The original Wood and Partners contract amount was $284,150. The contract change order, including a 10% contingency, is $134,285. The original contract and change order is fully funded from account 4502-80-0000-54420, which has an available balance of $2,655,174)

    2. Approval to award contract to J. Bragg Consulting for Shell Point Drainage Improvements Design, Engineering, and Permitting ($326,515.25)

    3. Approval of a contract to Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering for Beaufort County 2018 Pathway Projects ($1,130,144.24)

c. Items Originating from the Community Services Committee

    1. Appointment of Justin Palmer to the Disabilities and Special Needs Boards for a four-year term with the expiration date of November 2029, pending approval by the Governor's Office.

d. Items Originating from the Executive Committee

    1. Appointment of Council Member Alice Howard to the Southern Carolina Alliance Executive Board to fill the County Council Seat.

    2. Appointment of Christina Jackson to the Lowcountry Workforce Development Board for a partial term with the expiration date of June 2026.

    3. Reappointment of Wendy Zara to the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust Board of Directors for a three-year term with the expiration date of January 2029.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

12. AGENDA ITEMS

a. Approval of the 2026 County Council Meeting Schedule

13. RESOLUTIONS:

a. 2025/76: A Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute the documents necessary to negotiate with the applicant and to provide funds to the Beaufort County School District for their procurement of fee simple real property located on Lady's Island, known as the Sea Island Parkway Tracts (pin# R200 015 000 114b 0000, R200 015 000 0638 0000), with a final purchase price not to exceed the requested amount ($2,250,000), contingent upon the results of final due diligence and the School District taking ownership of the property.

The vote at Natural Resources Committee on November 3, 2025 - 8:0

b. 2025/71: A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a First Amended Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between Beaufort County and the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SIB) for the US 278 Corridor Project.

The vote at Public Facilities Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:0

c. 2025/72: A Resolution to approve recommendations to award FY26 Community Services Grant Program funds in the amount of $398,000 to community service organizations.

The vote at Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:2

d. 2025/73: A Resolution approving the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation's use $600,000 of County Site & Jobs Funds for the purchase of land on St. Helena Island for the development of a Gullah Geechee Cultural Center & Entrepreneurial Market.

The vote at Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee on November 17, 2025 - Failed 5:5

e. 2025/74: A Resolution to accept a South Carolina Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) Commercial Airport Entitlement Grant ($18,455) funding for Terminal Lot Tree Removal at the Hilton Head Island Airport — CONTINGENT UPON FINAL SCAC GRANT OFFER.

The vote at Public Facilities Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:0

f. 2025/75: A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Cost-Share Agreement Between Beaufort County, the Town of Bluffton, and Buckwalter Place Association, Inc. for the Development, Construction, and Ownership of the Washington Square – Buckwalter Place Connector Road.

The vote at Public Facilities Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:0

g. 2025/77: A Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the City of Beaufort for collaboration on the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent Park.

The vote at Natural Resources Committee on November 3, 2025 - 7:1

h. 2025/78: A Resolution approving Strategic Initiatives set by Beaufort County Council for Fiscal Year 2027.

i. 2025/79: A Resolution repealing and replacing Council's Rules and Procedures.

The vote at Executive Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:2.

14. ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

    a. 2025/49: An Ordinance to amend the business and professional licenses Ordinance, Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-67(A)(B), Appendix A&B.

       The vote at Natural Resources Committee on October 6, 2025 - 7:0
       The vote at First Reading on October 27, 2025 - 7:3
       The vote at Second Reading and Public Hearing on November 10, 2025 - 8:3

15. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

    a. 2025/51: An ordinance to amend Beaufort County's Ordinance Chapter 102 Waterways article IV, abandoned and derelict boats, section 102-171 through 102-183.

       The vote at Public Facilities Committee on October 20, 2025 - 9:0
       The vote at First Reading on November 10, 2025 - 11:0
       Public Hearing will be at Third Reading on January 12, 2026
       The waterways ordinance amendment came forward to the Public Facilities Committee on September 15, 2025. The committee motioned and approved to send this item to the next Public Facilities Committee meeting to allow additional public engagement. The item came forward again at the Public Facilities meeting on October 20, 2025. The committee motioned and approved, bifurcating the ordinance amendment to send charges to articles I, II, and III back for staff review and re-submission, and approved sending amendments to the ordinance for inclusion of Article IV forward to county council for first reading.

    b. 2025/52: An Ordinance recommending approval of the 2% State Accomodations Tax Awards as presented by the State Atax Committee.

       The vote at Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee on October 20, 2025 - 7:0.
       The vote at First Reading on November 10, 2025 - 11:0.
       Public Hearing will be at Third Reading on January 12, 2026
       N/A

16. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

    a. 2025/50: An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2022/46 authorizing the County Administrator to execute any and all documents necessary for the sale of County owned real properties identified as 1407 King Street and 600 Wilmington Street, City of Beaufort.

       The vote at Natural Resources Committee on October 6, 2025 - 7:0

    b. 2025/53: An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance and Possible Eminent Domain Associated with a Drainage Easement located in Rivers End Subdivision Identified as Open Area in Plat Book 59 at page 118.

       The vote at Public Facilities Committee on November 17, 2025 - 8:0

17. ADJOURNMENT

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