

Daufuskie Island Council Agenda
Regular Forum, Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 5:00 PM
DI Fire Station

Call to Order

Leanne Coulter opened the meeting.

Roll Call

The following council members were present:

Leanne Coulter

John Schartner

Tonie Meyers

Kathy Aurichio

Steve Hill

Roger Pinckney

Robert Levin was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

John Van Horn led the pledge.

Guest Speakers

County Officials

The following county officials were introduced:

Eric Greenway, Interim County Administrator

Joe Passiment, Council Chairman

Paul Sommerville, Vice Chairman

Larry McElynn, Council Member

Mark Lawson, Council Member

Phil Foot, Assistant County Administrator

Hayes Williams, Finance Director

Whitney Richland, Assistant County Administrator
Robert Bechtold, Deputy County Administrator

Dr. Carole Rizzo-Baum

Dr. Baum began working on getting the vaccine to Daufuskie Island residents three months ago. She was in contact with various officials. On Monday, the CEO of Hilton Head Hospital contacted Dr. Baum and said that the Pfizer vaccine was scheduled to come from Hilton Head Hospital on Wednesday, March 17, from 9:00-3:00 with all residents 16 and over, scheduled or not, encouraged to get their shot. Many people attending the meeting thanked Dr. Baum for her efforts on behalf of the island residents.

General Announcements

2021 Election Results

The February election results were reported by Steve Hill. There were three candidates for one three-year position with 125 residents voting. Leanne Coulter won the election.

2021 Council Organization

The organization is as follows: Leanne Coulter is chair. John Schartner is vice- chair and treasurer. Steve Hill is director of communications.

Bulletin Board

The bulletin board, which was previously lost during Hurricane Matthew, is soon to be replaced and installed.

DI Fire Department

A reminder was given to replace smoke detector batteries. Also, concerning water safety, individuals should know where they are located at all times.

Community Happenings

Steve Hill mentioned the following: St. Patrick's Day, a virtual fire board meeting to take place the next day, Easter in early April and drive-in church at 10:00 followed by an Easter egg hunt, the April 10th Spring beach clean-up beginning at 10:30, the Scrap Iron 5K road race on April 10th, and the Burger Boat coming to Daufuskie on Saturdays. The heritage Golf Tournament will take place on HH Island from the 12th-the 18th. The Adopt-a-Road Program is now in place and led by Nancy Hunter. In May, Roger Pinckney's new book will be out. Also, the next King Tide will take place on April 27th.

Council Committee Reports

Bi-monthly public Daufuskie Island Council meetings will continue. The following council members will be heading up the following committees: Daufuskie Island Code and Zoning-

Roger Pinckney and Kathy Aurichio, Ferry-Leanne Coulter and Tonie Meyers, Infrastructure and Roads-Roger Pinckney and Robert Levin, Parks and Recreation-John Schartner and Kathy Aurichio, Raising funds for the council and mailbox issue-Leanne Coulter, Health and Safety-Kathy Aurichio

Ferry

The ferry contract has four bidders and is now in the hands of the Beaufort County committee in charge of choosing a vendor. The bidding is a closed process. Important aspects of what needs to be provided were stated by Tonie Meyers, the chair of the committee, and included the following: attention to safety of parking site, at least the same number of runs, restrooms available, parking for 100, transportation to and from the ferry, an all-inclusive fee, and maintaining luggage loading.

Roads and Environment

Roger Pinckney updated the public on the following three issues: the waste fuel has been evacuated from the two fuel tanks at Melrose (they now need to either be filled with inert material or removed), secondly, the new owners of Bloody Point will need to be informed that the original Bloody Point PUD agreement made includes a public easement through Bloody Point accessed by the road that runs over the bridge to the cemetery and ends at a public beach, and thirdly, there is a new road built to access Mary Dunn Cemetery that cannot be gated as it accesses 4 ½ acres of cemetery land owned by the cemetery.

Community Park

John Schartner reported that there has been progress in that there is now a Beaufort County contract for maintenance and liability for the Frances Jones park playground. The Daufuskie Island Council will continue to have input on the park development. Erin Quinn, who has been working on this issue for a few years, reported that permitting is close to being approved. The grounds will be prepared for the playground equipment by a public works crew. Many island organizations and individuals have donated to the playground fund. Erin Quinn mentioned that there might be a volunteer opportunity when the playground equipment is to be installed. There will signage on county-maintained roads to direct the public to the park, including to the public bathrooms.

Public Forum

The public forum included many comments and suggestions about the ferry service as a new contract is imminent. Many individuals mentioned that the public ferry service we have now is excellent and that we don't want to see the service diminished. The following were issues raised: the current valet service is excellent and should continue, perhaps a run could be added each weekday night at 9:00 so students can participate in sports activities, although the low price bid receives lots of points when reviewing the bids, Beaufort county ferry committee members should keep the long-term quality in mind, the distance to and from the ferry on walkways should be kept in mind, enough safe parking should be available on both sides, and

consider the depth of the organization when reviewing bids because boats break down and employees get sick.

Two other issues were raised. One was that there needs to be more parking allocated at the public beach. It was reported that there is a 100- foot easement there so that more parking spaces could be created. Also, the final issue raised was a concern about the Daufuskie Island Plan codes not being enforced. The plan states that there should be a thirty-foot buffer along the roads. There are currently several building sites that do not include this buffer. It was stated that this will change the character of the island if not addressed.

In follow-up comments Eric Greenway, Interim County Administrator, stated that a committee of the Beaufort Council is currently meeting to review the four bids for the public ferry service. He stated that there were members of that committee in attendance at this Daufuskie Council meeting. In addition, Eric Greenway stated that a legal team is in discussions with Reed Delaney about the Prospect Road issue. Thirdly, Eric Greenway commented on the house lot permit approval process. He stated that once the permit is issued, the department does not see the property on Daufuskie. He suggested that he will look into this and that perhaps there should be a voluntary enforcement group on the island.

As the meeting concluded, the following 2021 Daufuskie Island Council priorities were stated:

Short-Term

- Public Ferry Service Contract RFP process
- Beach Litter Removal/Trash Pick-Up
- Construction of Restrooms at Foot of Beach Road
- Reconstruction of Restrooms at County Landing
- Frances Jones Park Playground
- Equipment and Material for Road Repair and Maintenance

Mid-Term

- New, Expanded Cluster Mailbox Unit
- Proscriptive Easement for Prospect Road
- Permanent Ferry Embarkment with Adequate Parking
- Improved Roadside Signage/Wayfinding
- Island Public Health Services

Long-Term

- Steps to Mitigate Island Power Loss

- Streetlights/Road Illumination
- Workforce Ferry Schedule
- Complete Island-Wide Hi-Speed Internet
- Address Beach Erosion/ Renourish Melrose Beach