# **Daufuskie Island Council Meeting**

August 20, 2019, 6:00 PM Mary Field School

**Call to Order:** Council Co-Chair John Schartner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: John Schartner, Leanne Coulter, Roger Pinckney, Sallie Ann Robinson, Steve Hill,

Robert Levis

Absent: Brandy Breese

#### Pledge to Flag

#### **General Announcements:**

- Daufuskie's turtle team reports they've counted 107 nests so far this season a record.
- Two Council members will soon be publishing new books Sallie Anne Robinson and Roger Pinckney.
- Information was shared concerning the passing of long-term island resident Walter Carvin.

<u>Guest Invited Speaker</u>: Pat Allision, Chairman of the Daufuskie Island Community Foundation, addressed the meeting providing an overview of the history and work of the 501c3 organization. The foundation has undertaken many beneficial community projects and is considering establishing a stockpile of supplies for emergency needs. Mr. Allision highlighted the Amazon Simile program by which contributions can be made to the Daufuskie Island Community Foundation through Amazon shopping orders.

# **Public Forum** #1 – No comments

<u>Community Happenings</u>: Mr. Dan Hernandez, organizer of the Daufuskie Island marathon, addressed the meeting describing plans for the 2020 event. The event is scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> and organizers are expecting over 250 participants. The race is a USTA sanctioned event.

#### **Committee Reports**

Treasurers Report: No change

**Ferry Committee:** LeAnne Counter provided a report of the recent Ferry Committee meeting. She read a report of the Committee's finding, analysis, and recommendations. Report follows as Exhibit 1.

# **Roads and Easements**: Roger Pinckney

- Council continues to work the issue of public access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and Mungen River. Although the public sign claiming to restrict access has been removed, the Council is consulting with Beaufort County's legal team. Council is considering a resolution that supports unhindered access as specified in PUD documentation.
- Beaufort County's five-year road paving plan includes three roads on Daufuskie: School, Church, and Prospect. Council is not in favor of paving these roads with a hard surface,

however, conversation with the County Engineer has indicated that an alternative surfacing, such as crushed rock, could be considered. Any work will require coordination with current property owners to establish right-of-ways.

• Committee is placing driving safety reminders on island roadways

# **Council Projects**:

**Police Incidents:** Steve Hill submitted a FOIA request to Beaufort County's Sheriff Department for a list of 2018 'Calls for Service' related to Daufuskie. Data analysis shows there were 91 traffic stops on the island during the year; 73 written warnings and 11 citations. Other calls included 65 erroneous 911 calls, 13 civil process servings, 11 alarm activations, 7 warrants served. Overall Sheriff Deputies feel Daufuskie is a safe community.

#### **Public Forum #2**

Dean Roberson presented two points concerning ferry service. Although the current public ferry service does serve the community, the County tax dollars spent are intended to support residents not tourists. Parking is the critical issue. Uncertainty over availability of convenient parking create stress and anxiety. Continued dialog is necessary, but it must be going on now. In six months, the tourist season will be back. The situation must be addressed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM

### Exhibit 1

# Ferry Service to Daufuskie Island

Passenger ferry service provides essential transportation to Daufuskie Island residents. Ferry service to Daufuskie Island provides a lifeline to the mainland to seek vital services, including professional, pharmacies, food stores and others.

# Goals stated in a resolution by the Daufuskie Island Council, June 14, 2016 Ferry Service Level:

- A consistent boat schedule with daily services offered throughout the year- met
- Daily transits in the early morning and late afternoon/evening permitting employment on/off the island- **not met**
- Ability to transport a reasonable amount of luggage, groceries, personal items without additional charge- met

Palmetto Breeze bus service to/from Hilton Head embarkation- **notmet** 

# Boat Embarkation/Disembarkation:

- Safe and convenient without placing undue burden on residents, especially those with limited mobility or encumbered with luggage or groceries- **met**
- Nearby parking; preferably lighted and paved- met
- Suggested the Beaufort County update "Daufuskie Island Ferry Services- Protocol Handbook"- **met**

# **Daufuskie Island Comprehensive Plan**

The Daufuskie Island Comprehensive Plan, a recognized Beaufort County ordinance, serves as the principal planning tool to guide decision making regarding the development of Daufuskie Island. The DI Plan recognizes a consistent ferry service to DI will increase economic development, resulting in additional tax revenue to the County.

#### Transportation Needs

- Dedicated, well-maintained public ferry landing- met
- Reliable and convenient transportation to the Island- met

#### **Transportation Action Items**

- Continue to Coordinate with the County (and Palmetto Breeze) to provide stable, consistent, and quality public ferry service.
- Open discussion with SCOOT/Office of Public Transit to gain understanding of transit funding and explore additional options
- Research other ferry systems' organizational structures, funding mechanisms to identify potential models

# **Community Input at Ferry Committee**

# Parking at Buckingham Landing

There are three distinct population groups on the Daufuskie Island: 1. Full time and part time residents, 2. Day trippers and 3, Long term vacationers.

- Currently 45 families pay \$50.00 per month to park at Buckingham Landing. This parking fee allows residents to park anywhere in the parking lot. There are families who pay \$100.00 per month. Employees of the Daufuskie Island Ferry Service (DIFS) offers assistance in finding parking for residents.
- Day trippers- currently the ferry ticket price, \$35.00 round trip includes parking.
- Long term vacationers pay \$10.00 per night.

Residents want a designated area in the Buckingham Landing lot to park. Signs would be posted indicating cars parked in the designated area would be towed - sticker.

The DIFS has offered the residents designated family parking spots for \$100.00 per month.

Residents feel an increase from \$50.00 to \$100.00 is too much of an increase. Many families feel the amount of the increase would place a financial burden on them. The DIFS has offered assistance to those families. Details have not been specified.

The DIFS has indicated they pay approximately \$10,000.00 per month to lease the Buckingham Landing parking lot.

Although tourism drives the economy of Daufuskie Island, residents feel if day trippers were charged to park, the revenue from this source would help off set the burden of the monthly lease.

Residents have also suggested if the last run of the day went from Buckingham Landing to Daufuskie Island, it would open up parking spaces used by day trippers. The DIFS has indicated scheduling of Captains and mates would make this difficult.

#### The recommendation of the DI Council: **Draft**

- 1. Daily transit in the early morning and late afternoon/ evening permitting employment on/off the island.
- 2. The last tourist boat leaves Daufuskie Island prior to the last resident run from Buckingham Landing.
- 3. For over flow parking, Palmetto Breeze bus service would provide transportation to/ from Buckingham Landing embarkation.
- 4. Designated parking area for full time residents