

# Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

July 16, 2019, 6:00 PM

Mary Field School

**Call to Order:** Council Co-Chair Leanne Coulter 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, Brandy Breese

Absent: Robert Levis

## **Pledge to Flag**

## **General Announcements:**

- 99 loggerhead sea turtle nests have been identified on Daufuskie this season. This number is the most ever observed. Armadillo disruption of nests continues to be a challenge.
- Beaufort County's new County Administrator, Ms. Ashley Jacobs, visited Daufuskie on Friday, 12 July. She arrived via public ferry and was provided a tour of the island by Fire Chief Boys. She was accompanied by county attorney Chris Inglese and District 9 county council rep Mark Lawson. DI Council members Roger Pinckney and Steve Hill met the group for lunch.

**Guest Invited Speaker:** Lt Col Neil Baxley, Beaufort County Emergency Management Division Commander, provided an overview of hurricane preparedness. His most important advice was to use the county social media/information channels: BC emergency app, smart 911, and 1-800#. County is working hard to keep these sources updated and make them relevant. Lt Col Baxley responded to several questions:

- Lessons Learned from Matthew? County was not prepared to employ social media.
- Public Shelter in BC? No shelters in BC; closest is Jasper County
- New Flood Maps? Year late; still being worked.
- Which news to trust? Try to stay with Savannah news.

Council and attendees thanked Lt Col Baxley for his presentation and the Sheriff Dept's hard work on behalf of the community.

## **Public Forum #1**

Several attendees commented on the Marshside Mama lease issue:

- Chase Allen: Proposed amendment to include the store in the lease is progressing through County Council review process; third reading will be Monday, 22 July. Original RFP did not include store. County is circumventing correct contract process. Mr. Allan would like to have DIC support this position.

- Attendee: Beaufort County may not have followed correct process; need to clean up expectation of following correct legal process.
- Several comments expressed concerned about the fairness of the process; process should be open and transparent. People who might have been interested in the store did not have an opportunity to bid. New RFP is warranted. Successful island businesses are run by residents; failed businesses are run by off-islanders.
- Council Co-Chair agreed to relate proceeding of meeting and sentiments of attendees concerning fairness to Mark Lawson and County Council prior to next meeting.

**Community Happenings:** Upcoming events were highlighted including the August return to school. Island motorists were reminded to exercise caution when operating around the school bus.

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurers Report:** No change

**Ferry Committee:** Brandy Breese explained she has not been able to hold a Ferry Committee meeting recently but will do so before the next council meeting. The major issue is parking, with not enough spaces available at the landing. Haig Point indicates they have a verbal agreement with the County for a one-year extension of the contract.

Comment from Dean Roberson: Ferry service is much improved over the previous service; many things are positive, but parking is a major problem. Situation has devolved into a competitive parking situation -- probably not what everybody had in mind. A few concerned people are taking these issues to the County. They will be meeting with our County representative soon.

Several comments from attendees that ferry operator is not following the contract not providing parking spaces. Brandy Breese responded that if you have problems, the first step is to contact captain Richard Inglis or Brandy Breese, then contact the County.

Extended discussion on parking situation followed. During which Doug Egly, Haig Point GM, ensured all that the ferry system is following the contract, and that he would be present at the Ferry Committee meeting.

### **Roads and Easements:**

- Roger Pinckney explained that as part of Beaufort County's five-year road paving plan, three roads on Daufuskie are included. DIC approved a statement to the County Engineer expressing thanks for considering Daufuskie, however, since Daufuskie's dirt roads are part of the island's historic charm and a major tourist draw, the Council respectfully suggested modification of those plans as detailed below:
  - Paved portion of Haig Point Road immediately adjacent to the Fire/EMT station is breaking up and is currently in need of an overlay.

- Since a portion of Prospect Road has been threatened with closure by the current owner of the Egleberger Tract, DIC suggests action before the Master of Equity to prove Prescriptive Easement on the public's behalf.
- Public access to the Bloody Point Cemetery and the Mungen River was granted in 1989 via the Bloody Point road system. Since access is currently being denied, DIC would like this situation resolved.

### **Council Projects:**

**Melrose Landing Fuel Tanks:** Roger Pinckney reported that the Daufuskie Fire Dept received a call reporting a fuel hose leak at the pump at Melrose Landing. A boom had been placed around it to contain the leakage. Roger had visited the site twice, once at high-tide and at low-tide and did not observe any leaking. Eddie Havid will also be investigating

### **Public Forum #2**

Sarah Dietch commented that the dirt roads are abysmal; not healthy.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM