Minutes Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 Mary Fields School

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Chuck Hunter.

The following Council Members were present:

James Bays
Darnell Brawner
Maureen Devine
Steve Hill
Chuck Hunter
Sallie Ann Robinson
John Schartner
Charlie Small
Deborah Smith

All members being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

Special Guests

Mr. Hunter introduced **Ms. Sarah Kimball**, Field Representative for Mark Sanford, and Ms. Kimball extended greetings on behalf of the Congressman. Ms. Kimball had held constituent meetings with interested Daufuskie residents for the hour preceding the Council meeting.

Mr. Gary Stewart, DI Fire Board Commissioner, provided an overview of the Daufuskie Island Fire District Board's 5 year plan, goals and objectives, meeting schedule (every two weeks) and staffing structure. He said that meetings are held every two weeks and are open to the public. Mr. Stewart called attention for island residents to properly registrar automobiles to their Daufuskie Island address. Doing so ensures tax dollars are properly directed to support island fire and rescue. Under the supervision of Chief Edward Boys, there are a total of 12 full-time fire fighters, 2 paramedics, a part-time administrator (Ginny Teerlink) See Attachment #1 for a detailed overview of Mr. Stewart's presentation.

Mr. Robert (Lancy) Burn, life-long resident of Daufuskie, gave an interesting presentation on island snakes. He said there is a lot of snake activity after storms, and that residents should be particularly alert for snakes during such times, especially after dark. The majority of snakes are not venomous. Overall, snakes tend to be beneficial and and will control rodent populations. The most common snake is a Black Snake, and although not venomous will probably try to bite you if captured. He suggested not trying to do this unless you are experienced with handling them. Another common snake is the

Chicken Snake or Rat Snake, which can grow to 6 feet long and likes to eat birds and eggs. There are three venomous snakes islanders should watch out for: 1) Copperheads; 2) Diamondback and Timber Rattlesnakes; and 3) Cottonmouths or Water Moccasins which are found in and around the water. Copperheads are the most dangerous, and come out at dusk. (They are very difficult to see in the daytime.) Mr. Burn urged residents to be "snake aware" and to always use a flash flight when outside after dark because "they won't get out of your way."

Mr. Ervin Simmons, President of the Daufuskie Foundation, gave a brief update on Daufuskie Day, which is scheduled for June 24th. This is a homecoming event for native islanders and the entire community is invited to join the fun. This event is a long-standing island tradition when families and friends who grew up on Daufuskie gather at this annual event to share stories, food, and music. The event is always held on the 4th Saturday of June, and this year marks the 41st annual event. The Council will be supporting the event, and Kathy Auricchio said that the Church would be involved in this year's event.

On another issue, Mr. Simmons stated that he thinks it's important that the county does not relinquish control of the county dock area's water, bathrooms, and lights.

Committee Reports

Committee on Cultural & Historical Preservation

Chairperson Sallie Ann Robinson reported that she is finalizing a list of members of the committee and that there would be an organizational call in the near future. Following that call, she will let everyone know about meetings which she hopes will generate public attendance and support. Ms. Robinson noted that the community parks issue and Daufuskie Day would be coming under the jurisdiction of her committee.

DI Plan & Code Committee

Chairperson Deborah Smith reported that Committee members Beverly Davis and Sony Timmerman had presented to County Planning Director Tony Criscitiello a Scope of Work proposal to be used for for a year-long review and update of the Daufuskie Plan. Mr. Criscitiello asked for a follow-up briefing to the Planning Commission at its June 5th meeting. Mr. Criscitiello will then update the County Council. Ms. Smith added that this review and update of the Daufuskie Island Plan will only be successful if there is full participation by Daufuskie's residents. (See Attachment #2 for Scope of Work proposal.)

Fundraising Committee

Mr. Hunter announced that Council Member James Bays has agreed to chair a Fundraising Committee. James said he has a number of ideas for raising funds for Council projects, and that he'd welcome involvement by interested public members. In response to a question from a member of the public, he said that his committee would

be looking at worthwhile projects, and he expected to be working closely with Darnell Brawner and his Island Amenities Committee.

Island Amenities

Chairperson Darnell Brawner reported that his committee was looking at several immediate projects, including a drinking fountain at the county dock and a fish cleaning station. Mr. Brawner also said that he expected to be holding a committee meeting in the near future and welcomed participation by interested public members.

Roads Committee

Chairperson John Schartner reported that there continues to be progress on the asphalt issue, and that he appreciates the assistance of involved parties in moving this issue forward.

Other Issues

Solid Waste Management

Council Member Steve Hill commented on remarks made at the May Council meeting by several county officials relating to a possible new site for an island solid waste management center. Mr. Hill thought it was important to provide context for those remarks, and wanted to clarify that there have been no recent negotiations or discussions by the County about one potential site at the north end of the island. Mr. Hill also said that the proposal for a "One Island Solution" waste site is an important issue for the island, and that the Council would be carefully following all developments. He also referenced two past reports that will be posted on the Council's website.

Mr. Hunter added that a Council committee on solid waste management was being formed and more information about this committee would be provided at the next meeting.

Golf Cart Issues

Ms. Smith reported on the final passage by the County Council of an ordinance that legalizes night time driving of golf carts on Daufuskie. The new ordinance follows the minimum standards proscribed by state law, including a requirement for head lights and tail lights. However, she also reported that Council Tabor Vaux had committed to other county council members who were concerned about this legislation that he would support future consideration of an amendment that would add seats belts and child seats to the mandated requirements. (See Attachment #3 for Beaufort County cart ordinance.)

Mr. Hill commented on the requirements for golf cart permits, and said that he was undertaking the process for obtaining that permit by mail. He will report back to the public about his success in obtaining permits by that method.

Island School Bus

Mr. Hill reported that his efforts in working with the county school district to replace Daufuskie's antiquated school bus has resulted in the loan of a new bus to be used on a temporary basis. A permanent bus will be provided in the future.

Marshside Mama's/Co-Op Lease

Council Member Charlie Small reported that he has been working with Daufuskie Island Co-Op members and County officials regarding the County's lease of the Marshside Mama's building and surrounding facilities. County Council Member Tabor Vaux had asked that the Daufuskie Island Council weigh in on this issue, and Mr. Small reported that the Council in the process of developing a resolution on the matter.

New Council Website

Ms. Smith urged the public to look at the Council's new website (www.daufuskiecouncil.com) and to provide feedback. The site includes a Council blog, and she invited 500-700 word submissions addressing what the writer thinks is the most important issue(s) affecting Daufuskie, and ideas for addressing that issue.

In response to a question from the public, after a transition period there will be an automatic re-direct from the old site to the new site.

Public Forum

There was a question about a previous Council effort to include cart rules on every rental cart. It was pointed out that one cart company uses stickers with rules on each cart, and that appears to be a helpful approach. Another member of the public asked if the contact information for the cart rental companies could be posted on the website so that residents can call that company if they see renters violating the rules.

There was a question about whether or not FEMA is still on the island, and Mr. Hunter said that they are gone.

Mr. Hill brought attention to a recent Beaufort County Council meeting which highlighted the community park contract arrangement with Mr. Hunter. Beaufort Council-members acknowledged that in order to get the project initiated, Mr. Hunter will be providing complete funding and will be paid only on satisfactory completion of the park. An island resident commented that at a previous meeting Mr. Tabor Vaux had indicated that other bids received had greatly exceeded Mr. Hunter's. Mr. Hunter's acceptance of upfront

risk has ensured the community park will be built. There was a round of applause for Mr. Hunter.

<u>Adjournment</u>

There being no further questions nor comments, Mr. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Attachments (3)

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Smith, Council Secretary Approved by Council on May 27, 2017