

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEAUFORT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROBERT SMALLS COMPLEX
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D. PAUL SOMMERVILLE
CHAIRMAN

GERALD W. STEWART
VICE CHAIRMAN

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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MICHAEL E. COVERT
GERALD DAWSON
BRIAN E. FLEWELLING
STEVEN G. FOBES
YORK GLOVER, SR.
ALICE G. HOWARD
STEWART H. RODMAN
ROBERTS "TABOR" VAUX

JOSHUA A. GRUBER
INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

THOMAS J. KEAVENY, II
COUNTY ATTORNEY

ASHLEY M. BENNETT
CLERK TO COUNCIL

AGENDA
COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
REGULAR SESSION

Monday, April 23, 2018
6:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M.
2. REGULAR SESSION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. INVOCATION – Councilman York L. Glover
5. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Approval of Minutes
 1. April 9, 2018 Caucus ([backup](#))
 2. April 9, 2018 Regular Session ([backup](#))
 - B. Committee Reports (next meeting)
 1. Community Services (May 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m., ECR)
 - a. Minutes – April 16, 2018 ([backup](#))
 2. Executive (May 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., ECR)
 3. Finance (May 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., ECR)
 4. Governmental (May 7, 2018 at 4:00 p.m., ECR)
 5. Natural Resources (May 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., ECR)
 - a. Minutes – April 16, 2018 ([backup](#))
 6. Public Facilities (May 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., ECR)
 - C. Boards and Commissions ([backup](#))
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Speaker sign-up encouraged no later than 5:45 p.m. day of meeting.



7. TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS POTENTIALLY COMING FORTH FROM APRIL 23, 2018 COMMITTEE MEETING FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

A. CONTRACT AWARD / MARKETING CONSULTING SERVICES ([backup](#))

1. Contract award: NP Strategy, Columbia, South Carolina
2. Amount: \$140,000
3. Funding: To be determined by County Council
4. Public Facilities Committee discussion to occur April 23, 2018

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. AN ORDINANCE TO DELETE ORDINANCE 2001/24 ELIMINATING THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT AND TO ACCEPT INTO THE COUNTY'S MAINTENANCE SYSTEM THE ROADWAYS IN THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SUBDIVISION ([backup](#))

1. Consideration of approval on second reading to occur April 23, 2018
2. Public hearing – Monday, May 14, 2018 beginning at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort
3. First reading approval occurred April 9, 2018 / Vote 9:0
4. Public Facilities Committee discussion and recommendation to approve ordinance, on first reading, occurred March 26, 2018 / Vote 7:0

B. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A TITLE VI (OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964) PLAN FOR THE BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS DEPARTMENT ([backup](#))

1. Consideration of adoption to occur April 23, 2018
2. Community Services Committee discussion and recommendation to adopt resolution occurred April 16, 2018 / Vote 5:0

C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A QUESTION ON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 6, 2018, CONCERNING A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING BEAUFORT COUNTY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR PRESERVATION AND TO PAY CERTAIN COSTS AND DEBT SERVICE RELATED THERETO ([backup](#))

1. Consideration of approval on first reading to occur April 23, 2018
2. Natural Resources Committee discussion and recommendation to approve ordinance, on first reading, occurred April 16, 2018 / Vote 3:2

9. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. BEAUFORT COUNTY / LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
 - 1. Public Hearing Only

10. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. PUBLIC COMMENT - Speaker sign-up encouraged.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Official Proceedings
County Council of Beaufort County
April 9, 2018

The electronic and print media duly notified in
accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

A caucus of the County Council of Beaufort County was held Monday, April 9, 2018 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman D. Paul Sommerville, Vice Chairman Gerald Stewart, and Council members Rick Caporale, Michael Covert, Gerald Dawson, Brian Flewelling, Steven Fobes, York Glover, Alice Howard, Stewart Rodman and Roberts "Tabor" Vaux present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Rodman, seconded by Mr. Fobes, that Council go immediately into executive session regarding receipt of legal advice relating to potential litigation involving property located on Daufuskie Island as well as the Siddiqui Letter of Intent to sue Beaufort County. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Caporale, Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Fobes, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Glover. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENE OF CAUCUS

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT BROCHURE AND POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council discussed and reviewed the recruitment brochure and position announcement provided by Mrs. Sarah McKee, Vice President, GovHR, USA.

Mrs. McKee provided Council with an overview of the two documents. The Beaufort County administrator document is to advertise the position. That document will contain a link to the full recruitment brochure. The document at present only contains the text.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Vaux, seconded by Mr. Fobes, that Council go immediately into executive session regarding discussion of employment of a person regulated by County Council. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Caporale, Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Fobes, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENE OF CAUCUS

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT BROCHURE AND POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council continued discussion and review of the language of the recruitment brochure and position announcement and the requirements contained therein.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

Ratified:

Official Proceedings
County Council of Beaufort County
April 9, 2018

The electronic and print media duly notified in
accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regular session of the County Council of Beaufort County was held Monday, April 9, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman D. Paul Sommerville, Vice Chairman Gerald Stewart, Council members Mike Covert, Gerald Dawson, Brian Flewelling, York Glover, Alice Howard, Stewart Rodman and Roberts “Tabor” Vaux present. Councilman Rick Caporale and Steven Fobes absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chairman D. Paul Sommerville gave the Invocation.

RECOGNITION / ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Chairman Paul Sommerville recognized the following Adopt-A-Highway/Boat Landing groups -- In Memory of Neil Atherton, VMFAT Warlords, Daniel Smalls, and Lands’ End Community -- and thanked them for their vigilant efforts in making Beaufort County a cleaner, safer and more beautiful place to live, work and visit.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA

Review of the Proceedings of the Caucus held March 26, 2018

This item comes before Council under the Administrative Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Flewelling, seconded by Mrs. Howard, that Council approve the minutes of the caucus held March 26, 2018. The vote: YEAS –Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Review of the Proceedings of the Regular Session held March 26, 2018

This item comes before Council under the Administrative Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Flewelling, seconded by Mrs. Howard, that Council approve the minutes of the regular session held March 26, 2018. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Community Services Committee

Beaufort Memorial Hospital Board

Stephen Larson

The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed. Dr. Larson garnered the six votes required for appointment to serve as a member of the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Board.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Stewart announced a special meeting of the Finance Committee on April 23, 2018 to discuss reassessment and the status of the FY2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Accommodations Tax (2% State) Board

Finance Committee nominated Ms. Constance Gardner, representing hospitality, for appointment to serve as a member of the Accommodations Tax (2% State) Board. This nomination is contingent upon receipt of Ms. Gardner's application, resume' and verification of her qualification to fill the hospitality vacancy prior to the April 23, 2018 meeting of Council.

Governmental Committee

Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board

Governmental Committee nominated Mr. Herbert Brown for reappointment to serve as a member of the Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board.

Natural Resource Committee

Natural Resources Committee Chairman Brian Flewelling reported the agenda of the April 16, 2018 meeting, will include a discussion of (i) a resolution from the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board recommending Council adopt an ordinance authorizing the placement of a question on the official ballot for the general election to be conducted November 6, 2018, and (ii) a text amendment to the Beaufort County Community Development Code (CDC), Article 3, Section 3.3.50 Regional Center Mixed Use (C5) zone standards (to allow hotel to apartment conversion on unit-to-unit basis).

Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board

Roberta Cope-Foss

The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed. Mrs. Cope-Foss, representing Council District 11, garnered the six votes required for appointment to serve as a member of the Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board.

Public Facilities Committee

Beaufort County Transportation Committee

Afif Combs

The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed. Mr. Combs, representing Council District 11, garnered the six votes required for appointment to serve as a member of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee.

Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board

Deborah Hadley

The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed. Ms. Hadley, representing Council District 7, garnered the six votes required for appointment to serve as a member of the Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board.

Carol Murphy

The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed. Mrs. Murphy, representing Council District 5, garnered the six votes required for appointment to serve as a member of the Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board.

Public Facilities Committee nominated Ms. Diane Voge, representing Council District 10, for appointment to serve as a member of the Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board. This representative will be serving out of district and this nomination is contingent upon third and final reading approval of text amendments to the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances allowing out-of-district appointments.

NEW BUSINESS / FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Chairman Paul Sommerville designated April 2018 as Fair Housing Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ricky Sweet, a resident of Heritage Lakes, questioned the conversion of Suburban Lodge to apartments. Who owns this property? Was the property sold and, if so, to whom? Suburban Lodge is one more “domino” that needs to fall to support the 500-room hotel and casino across the street. A domino fell two years ago with the executive golf course and, not one blade of grass has changed since that time. We need to coordinate these developments so taxpayers are not on the hook for frontage roads and traffic signals. There is no coordination with these projects. This project is not about housing. It is about J-1 Visa (Exchange Visitor Program) workers.

Mr. Tommy O’Brien, a Beaufort resident, stated we have been through some awful administrators. Mr. Kubic was a good guy and did a good job. He hired Josh Gruber as the Deputy County Administrator. Mr. Gruber has done the administrator’s job for a year now. Mr. Gruber is accessible and he wants to stay here in Beaufort County. His heart is in Beaufort County. The County could do a lot worse than Josh Gruber, such as former County Administrators John Kachmar, Mike Bryant or Tom Hendrickson. Sometimes you have to put aside your personal agendas and do what is best for all taxpayers.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CODE (CDC), ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.3.50 REGIONAL CENTER MIXED USE (C5) ZONE STANDARDS (TO ALLOW HOTEL TO APARTMENT CONVERSION ON UNIT-TO-UNIT BASIS)

Main motion: It was moved by Mr. Stewart, as Executive Committee Chairman, no second required, that Council approve on first reading a text amendment to the Community Development Code (CDC): Article 3, Section 3.3.50 Regional Center Mixed-Use (C5) Zone Standards (to allow hotel to apartment conversion on unit-to-unit basis.)

Mr. Flewelling removed this item from the Consent Agenda. He would like this item referred to the Natural Resources Committee.

Motion to amend by substitution: It was moved by Mr. Flewelling, as Natural Resources Committee Chairman, no second required, that Council refer consideration of a text amendment to the Community Development Code (CDC): Article 3, Section 3.3.50 Regional Center Mixed-Use (C5) Zone Standards (to allow hotel to apartment conversion on unit-to-unit basis) to the Natural Resources Committee for further discussion and potential changes. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

AN ORDINANCE TO DELETE ORDINANCE 2001/24 ELIMINATING THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT AND TO ACCEPT INTO THE COUNTY'S MAINTENANCE SYSTEM THE ROADWAYS IN THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SUBDIVISION

This item comes before Council under the Consent Agenda. Discussion and recommendation to approve ordinance on first reading occurred at the March 26, 2018 meeting of the Public Facilities Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Vaux, seconded by Mr. Flewelling, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to delete Ordinance 2001/24 eliminating the Oak Marsh Plantation Special Purpose Tax District and to accept into the County's Maintenance System the roadways in the Oak Marsh Plantation Subdivision. The vote: YEAS –Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE V, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, SECTION 2-193(B)(5), MEMBERSHIP (ALLOWS COUNCIL DISTRICT APPOINTEES TO SERVE OUT OF COUNCIL DISTRICT)

The Chairman opened a public hearing beginning at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning a text amendment to the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration; Article V, Boards and Commissions, Section 2-193(B)(5), Membership (to allow Council District appointees to serve out of Council District and to allow the continuance of a member to continue serving on a Board following the relocation from the district, subject to approval from the Council member who represents the district in which they serve). After calling three times for public comment and receiving none, Chairman Sommerville declared the public hearing closed at 6:31 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Dawson, as Governmental Committee Chairman, no second required, that Council approve on third and final reading a text amendment to the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration; Article V, Boards and Commissions, Section 2-193(B)(5), Membership (to allow Council District appointees to serve out of Council District and to allow the continuance of a member to continue serving on a Board following the relocation from the district, subject to approval from the Council member who represents the district in which they serve). The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Gloyer, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 FROM THE 3% LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDS TO THE CITY OF BEAUFORT FOR BRIDGE ACCESS AND BIKE PATH TO THE WATERFRONT PARK EXTENSION INTO THE WHITEHALL DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman opened a public hearing beginning at 6:32 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning an ordinance to appropriate funds not to exceed \$300,000 from the 3% Local Accommodations Tax Funds to the City of Beaufort bridge access and bike path to the Waterfront Park extension into the Whitehall Development. After calling once for public comment, the Chairman recognized Ms. Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League, who spoke in favor of the use of Accommodations Tax dollars to create this small bike and pedestrian infrastructure connecting downtown Beaufort to Whitehall Development. It is essential that downtown Beaufort is connected to the development for the success of the development, public access, and creation of a connecting community.

After calling twice more for public comment and receiving none, Chairman Sommerville declared the public hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Flewelling, as Natural Resources Committee Chairman, no second required, that Council approve on third and final reading an ordinance to appropriate funds not to exceed \$300,000 from the 3% Local Accommodations Tax Funds to the City of Beaufort bridge access and bike path to the Waterfront Park extension into the Whitehall Development. The vote: YEAS –Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING (1) THE DIMINISHING OF THE BOUNDARIES OF AN EXISTING MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK (RIVERPORT) PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, TO REMOVE THEREFROM CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY WASTE MANAGEMENT OF GEORGIA, INC, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES, AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS; (2) DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH JASPER COUNTY (THE “PARK”) SUCH PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN JASPER COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPERTY; (3) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A WRITTEN PARK AGREEMENT WITH JASPER COUNTY AS TO THE REQUIREMENT OF PAYMENTS OF FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO PARK PROPERTY AND THE SHARING OF THE REVENUES AND EXPENSES OF THE PARK; (4) THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES FROM THE PARK WITHIN BEAUFORT COUNTY; AND (5) OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

The Chairman opened a public hearing beginning at 6:36 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning an ordinance authorizing and approving (i) the diminishing of the boundaries of an existing multi-county industrial business park (RiverPort) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, 1976, as amended, to remove therefrom certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Waste Management of Georgia, Inc., one or more affiliates, and/or other Project Sponsors; (ii) development of a new Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Jasper County (the “Park”), such Park to be geographically located in Jasper County and to include the aforementioned property; (iii) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Jasper County as the requirement of payments of Fee in Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes with respect to Park Property and the sharing of the revenue and expenses of the Park; (iv) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Beaufort County; and (v) other matters related thereto. After calling three times for public comment and receiving none, Chairman Sommerville declared the public hearing closed at 6:38 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Stewart, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, no second required, that Council approve on third and final reading an ordinance on third and final reading authorizing and approving (i) the diminishing of the boundaries of an existing multi-county industrial business park (RiverPort) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, to remove therefrom certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Waste Management of Georgia, Inc., one or more affiliates, and/or other Project Sponsors; (ii) development of a new Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Jasper County (the “Park”), such Park to be geographically located in Jasper County and to include the aforementioned property; (iii) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Jasper County as the requirement of payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to Park Property and the sharing of the revenue and expenses of the Park; (iv) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Beaufort County; and (v) other matters related thereto. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Flewelling, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Rodman, seconded by Mr. Stewart, that Council approve the search documents (Community Information Brochure and Position Announcement), as drafted and presented by GovHR, subject to the understanding that Joshua Gruber meets the minimum job requirements. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Flewelling, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Rodman, Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Vaux. NAYS – Mr. Covert, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Glover. ABSENT – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Wilhelm, Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Artrell Horne, newly hired Beaufort County Litter Control Supervisor.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

Ratified:

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 16, 2018

The electronic and print media duly notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The Community Services Committee met Monday, April 16, 2018 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Alice Howard, Vice Chairman Rick Caporale and members Michael Covert, York Glover and Roberts "Tabor" Vaux present. Committee member Steven Fobes absent. Non-committee members Gerald Dawson and D. Paul Sommerville present. (Paul Sommerville, as County Council Chairman, serves as an *ex-officio* member of each standing committee of Council and is entitled to vote.)

County staff: Beth Cody, Fiscal Operations Manager, Disabilities and Special Needs Department; Joshua Gruber, Interim County Administrator; Patrick Hill, Director, Systems Management Department; Chris Inglese, Assistant County Attorney; Bill Love, Director, Disabilities and Special Needs Department; Ray McBride, Director, Library System Department; and Monica Spells, Assistant County Administrator-Civic Engagement and Outreach.

Media: Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*.

Councilwoman Howard chaired the meeting.

ACTION ITEM

I. Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Title VI Plan

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Ms. Beth Cody, Fiscal Operations Manager, Disabilities and Special Needs Department, provided the Committee an overview of the Disabilities and Special Needs Title VI Plan, and a resolution to adopt the Plan.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Covert, seconded by Mr. Glover, that Committee approve and recommend Council adopt a resolution adopting the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Title VI Plan. The vote: YEAS – Mr. Caporale, Mr. Covert, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Recommendation: Council adopt a resolution adopting the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Title VI Plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2. Update / Beaufort County Library System Bookmobile

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mr. Ray McBride, Director, Library System, provided the Committee an update on the Beaufort County Library System Bookmobile. The bookmobile has greeted over 6,700 people, circulated over 15,500 items, answered 1,100 reference questions, issued 233 new library cards and attended 18 events. Mr. McBride also provided bookmobile statistics, a list of special events attended, and an overview of current stops, suspended stops and future stops.

Status: Information only.

3. Consideration of Reappointments and Appointments / Library Board

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Status: No action taken.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

April 16, 2018

The electronic and print media duly notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The Natural Resources Committee met Monday, April 16, 2018 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Vice Chairman Tabor Vaux, and members Rick Caporale, Gerald Dawson, York Glover and Alice Howard present. Chairman Brian Flewelling and Committee member Steven Fobes absent. Non-committee members Michael Covert and D. Paul Sommerville also present. (Paul Sommerville, as County Council Chairman, serves as an *ex-officio* member of each standing committee of Council and is entitled to vote.) Stu Rodman participated telephonically.

County Staff: Tony Criscitiello, Director, Community Development Department; Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner; Eric Greenway, Director, Community Development Department; Josh Gruber, Interim County Administrator; Patrick Hill, Director, Systems Management Department; Chris Inglese, Assistant County Attorney; Tom Keaveny, County Attorney; Eric Larson, Division-Director, Environmental Engineering and Land Management; Rob Merchant, Deputy Director Community Development Department; Stephanie Nagid, Passive Park, Community Development Department; Mark Roseneau, Director, Facility Management Department; and Monica Spells, Assistant County Administrator-Civic Outreach and Engagement.

Public: Cindy Baysden, Executive Director, Beaufort County Open Land Trust; Barbara Holmes, Director of Land Protection as well as Administrator of the Rural and Critical Lands Program, Beaufort County Open Land Trust; Michael Krominus; Rob Semmler, Chairman, Planning Commission; Rikki Parker, Project Manager, S.C. Coastal Conservation League; Kate Schaefer, Director, S.C. Coastal Conservation League; Alex Shuford, President, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Board of Trustees; and Kristine Williams, Director of Stewardship, Beaufort County Open Land Trust.

Media: Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*.

Committee Vice Chairman Tabor Vaux chaired the meeting.

ACTION ITEM

1. Resolution of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board Recommending County Council Adopt an Ordinance Authorizing the Placement of a Question on the Official Ballot for the General Election to be Conducted November 6, 2018

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mrs. Barbara Holmes, Administrator, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Rural and Critical Lands Program, provided the Committee an overview of the resolution of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board recommending County Council adopt an ordinance authorizing the placement of a question on the official ballot for the General Election to be conducted November 6, 2018. The question on the Official Ballot is a referendum for General Obligation Bonds, not to exceed \$50,000,000, for land preservation to protect natural land, farmland and water quality. The Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board approved this resolution at the last meeting held April 12, 2018.

Mr. Dawson said at some point we need to slow down the preservation process or we will not have anything left for economic development. We need to be mindful of the strategic planning effort of a diversified economy.

Mrs. Howard said we need to remember this is not only critical land preservation. Economic development requires clean water. This also includes farmland, which is part of economic development. We will have land for both economic development and rural and critical lands. The \$50.0 million gives long-term viability.

Mr. Sommerville said there is no question that this is a model program. The question we need to have concern about is timing. We have approved adding a \$120.0 million One Percent Transportation Sales and Use Tax referendum for the ballot. A change of government referendum was denied to be put on the ballot due to many feeling it would negatively affect other referendums. We now have this potential referendum. The School District has a referendum on the ballot. Statistics provided by the Trust for Public Land, was that this referendum will pass, but when you add a One Percent Transportation Sales and Use Tax referendum, there is a concern in it not passing. Do we want to take a necessary and good referendum and throw it in the mix with the other referendums? Is the timing right? What if we put this on the ballot and they all lose? This is something Council needs to take into account.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Howard, seconded by Mr. Caporale, that Committee approve and recommend Council adopt on first reading an ordinance authorizing the placement on the Official Ballot a General Obligation Bond Referendum, not to exceed \$50,000,000, for land preservation to protect natural land, farmland and water quality, and change the percentage of funds that may be used to improve existing and newly acquired open space and natural area protection from 15% to 20%.

Mr. Glover wants to see a management plan for forest land. His concern is the impact on the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum.

Mr. Greenway said a review of the Rural and Critical Lands properties has been completed and will be presented to the Committee at a later date.

Mr. Caporale wanted to know the drop-dead date to add a referendum on the November 2018 ballot.

Mr. Gruber said August 15, 2018 is the drop-dead date to add a referendum to the ballot.

Mr. Caporale said he objected to the Change of Government Referendum because it had a negative history with the voters of Beaufort County. Land preservation referendum questions have always had a positive history. He is not worried about the impact it will have on the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum.

The vote: YEAS –Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Vaux. NAYS – Mr. Caporale and Mr. Dawson. ABSENT – Mr. Flewelling and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Recommendation: Council adopt on first reading an ordinance authorizing the placement on the Official Ballot a General Obligation Bond Referendum, not to exceed \$50,000,000, for land preservation to protect natural land, farmland and water quality, and change the percentage of funds that may be used to improve existing and newly acquired open space and natural area protection from 15% to 20%.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2. Update / Previous Planning Commission Meeting

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mr. Eric Greenway, Director, Community Development Department, stated the April 2018 Planning Commission meeting was canceled due to the lack of agenda items. The Community Development Code updates and Comprehensive Plan evaluations will be brought before the May 2018 meeting of the Planning Commission, then before this body for approval.

Status: Information only.

3. Update / Previous Southern Lowcountry Regional Planning Commission Meeting

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mr. Eric Greenway, Director, Community Development Department, and Eric Larson, Division Director–Environmental Engineering and Land Management, provided the Committee an update on the last meeting of the Southern Lowcountry Regional Planning Commission (SLRPC). At the last SLRPC meeting, members received a presentation from Jasper County and the Town of Ridgeland relative to their growth plans that will become a more significant issue for Beaufort County and is important to us when looking at planning on a regional basis. This month Beaufort County will be providing a presentation on growth. Also, the Stormwater Subcommittee provided a presentation regarding a proposal to engage a consultant to help with the development of a Regional Stormwater Standard. This item was tabled 90 days and staff was asked to find funding. The Town of Hilton Head Island and the Town of Ridgeland will participate in the project. After the meeting, we met with them and they wanted to change the way a consultant was selected. We let a request for qualifications, but that did not change their opinions, so they are still not participating. Hope to have a consultant selected by the June meeting.

Status: Information only.

4. Camp St. Mary's / General Assessment of Existing Facilities and Conceptual Plan

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mr. Josh Gruber, Interim County Administrator, said this item has come up for discussion at the 2018 Annual Strategic Planning Session. This involves a piece of property acquired before the start of the Rural and Critical Lands Program. Shortly after the purchase, the County commissioned the development of a Master Plan for the property. He distributed copies of the Master Plan to the Committee. The Plan called for improvements and opening this property up to the public, but had a price tag of \$4.0 million. The property has sat vacant since acquired. The County has provided maintenance and upkeep over the years. The fishing dock is open to the public. Not much has been done to the property due to the high price tag and lack of funding. Staff, too, was asked to provide a plan.

Mr. Mark Roseneau, Director, Facilities Management Department, provided the Committee an overview of the inspection of the current- and future-infrastructure needs of both the lodge and chapel. He recommends implementing a limited stabilization plan that would

include improvement/replacement of the electrical systems, HVAC systems, roofing systems and miscellaneous repair of both facilities in an effort to prevent further interior and exterior damage from the elements. The estimated cost, for both the lodge and chapel, is \$258,000.

Questions, concerns and comments of the Committee included:

- Consider installing a camera(s) at the facility.
- Council, historically, has used the revenue generated by the local accommodations tax to fund recreation/park improvements. However, funds are now available through the Rural and Critical Lands Program (funds may be used to improve existing and newly acquired open space and natural areas protected under this program). There is enough money available to make this a public amenity. Much of the money in the Park Master Plan is earmarked for preserving the buildings. Do we want to preserve them?
- Should we use Rural and Critical Lands Program funds or other funding sources? We need to determine the use of the property, then decide if Rural and Critical Lands dollars are appropriate.
- We should operate the site as an active park to implement revenue-generating opportunities.
- We need to assess the condition of the buildings to see if we want to keep them.
- If this is going to be a revenue-generating facility, we need to make that decision so we can start on the plan.
- The property needs to be preserved. Staff needs to analyze all possibilities.
- We need to set a deadline for the Committee to make a plan.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Glover, seconded by Mrs. Howard, that Committee direct staff to implement a limited-stabilization plan for both the lodge and chapel and update the Camp St. Mary's Master Plan. The vote: YEAS –Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Vaux. ABSTAIN – Mr. Caporale. ABSENT – Mr. Flewelling and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Status: Committee directed staff to implement a limited-stabilization plan for both the lodge and chapel and update the Camp St. Mary's Master Plan.

5. Text Amendment to the Beaufort County Community Development Code (CDC), Article 3, Section 3.3.50 Regional Center Mixed Use (C5) Zone Standards (to allow hotel to apartment conversion on unit-to-unit basis)

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Mr. Eric Greenway, Director, Community Development Department, said staff would like to review the Housing Needs Assessment Study prior to providing a comprehensive strategy for dealing with affordable housing and make this a part of that package of amendments. This amendment will only take care of one situation in the County. If the intent of this amendment is to address affordable housing, then we need to wait and handle it as a

comprehensive affordable housing strategy. Also, the rental rates provided to Council differ from those provided to the Department.

Mrs. Howard informed the Committee of a delay in the Housing Needs Assessment Study due to a major flaw. The presentation will now be made on May 29, 2018.

Comments, concerns and discussions of the Committee included the following:

- Once again the County is delaying action until a study is done. There is no doubt we have an affordable housing need in Beaufort County.
- The last time we talked about this issue as an affordable housing alternative, we were told \$1.00 to \$1.25 per square foot. It is now over \$2.00 per square foot. There are questions on the issue of affordability.

Mr. Krominus provided the Committee additional information. This project is not in a good spot right now. It is a bad hotel that is in the process of renovation. This was not supposed to be an affordable housing project, it was supposed to be housing that is affordable. This is meant for workforce individuals with lower incomes. The applicant was told it would need a text amendment. There is a problem with density in C5 zone. This is a non-conforming use that was conforming prior. The only non-conformity is density. Parking has been met and is in accordance with the Community Development Code. The owner is willing to comply with an impact fee and to upgrade the property. Rental rates range from \$895.00 to \$1,095 due to the amount of funding put into the building for upgrades and repairs. Also the text amendment written is inaccurate as it relates to parking and multi-family.

Mr. Greenway said, putting in a bike rack does not automatically get approval for a 20% reduction. You cannot say this is not affordable housing, but then say you are affordable housing when it comes to parking. We need to slow this down and study it to ensure we do not make any mistakes moving forward. We will study this quickly and efficiently. We could have a recommendation within 30 to 45 days. The changes to this building, have been done without the authority of the Community Development Department. They have received notice of a Design Review Board violation.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Howard, seconded by Mr. Dawson, that Committee delay action until the May 21, 2018 meeting of the Natural Resources Committee to allow the Community Development Department time to analyze the Housing Needs Assessment Study. The vote: YEAS –Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Vaux. NAYS – Mr. Caporale. ABSENT – Mr. Flewelling and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Status: Committee delayed action until the May 21, 2018 meeting of the Natural Resources Committee to allow the Community Development Department time to analyze the Housing Needs Assessment Study.

6. Consideration of Reappointments and Appointments / Historic Preservation Review Board

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Status: No action taken.

7. Consideration of Reappointments and Appointments / Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Status: No action taken.

8. Consideration of Reappointments and Appointments / Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Status: No action taken.

9. Consideration of Reappointments and Appointments / Stormwater Management Utility Board

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Status: No action taken.

10. Off Agenda Item – Bag Ban

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Discussion: Ms. Rikki Parker, Project Manager, S.C. Coastal Conservation League provided an updated on the Ban on Bans Legislation, House Bill 3529. Both the House and Senate Committee/Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee have passed this Bill. It is now headed to the Senate. Fortunately, Senator Tom Davis has been a vocal opponent of the bill and may be willing to filibuster the bill. It has made it to the final step to becoming law. Because Beaufort County was proactive, nothing the Senate does will affect the bag ban in Beaufort County. Mt. Pleasant just passed a ban on single use plastic bag, Styrofoam containers and

straws. The momentum is rolling up the coast. She is scheduled to speak at the Coastal Discovery Museum on the subject of combating plastic pollution.

Status: Information only.

11. Executive Session

- **Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase of property (Project 2018-B)**

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Caporale, seconded by Mr. Glover, that Committee go immediately into executive session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase of property (Project 2018-B). The vote: YEAS - Mr. Caporale, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Vaux. ABSENT – Mr. Flewelling and Mr. Fobes. The motion passed.

Status: Committee went into executive session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase of property (Project 2018-B).

Boards and Commissions
Reappointments and Appointments
April 23, 2018

1 Finance Committee

Accommodations Tax (2%) State Board

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Area/Expertise</u>	<u>Reappoint/Appoint</u>	<u>Votes Required</u>	<u>Term/Years</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
04.09.18	Constance Gardner	Hospitality	Appoint	6/11	4	2/22

2 Governmental Committee

Construction Adjustments and Appeals Board

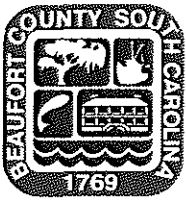
<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Area/Expertise</u>	<u>Reappoint/Appoint</u>	<u>Votes Required</u>	<u>Term/Years</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
04.09.18	Herbert Brown	Design Prof/Contractor/Bldg. Industry	Reappoint	10/11	4	2/22

3 Public Facilities Committee

Keep Beaufort County Beautiful Board

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Area/Expertise</u>	<u>Reappoint/Appoint</u>	<u>Votes Required</u>	<u>Term/Years</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
04.09.18	Diane Voge *	Council District 10	Appoint	6/11	4	2/22

* Nominee serving out of district.



COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228 ♦ BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228
TELEPHONE: (843) 255-2350 FAX: (843) 255-9437

TO: Councilman Stu Rodman, Chairman, Public Facilities Committee
FROM: David L. Thomas, CPPO, Purchasing Director
SUBJ: **Recommendation for Contract Award for RFP 030818 Marketing Consulting Services for Beaufort County**
DATE: April 23, 2018

BACKGROUND: Beaufort County issued a Request for Proposals to provide Marketing Consulting Services which includes preparing and executing a marketing plan to educate the public concerning our current impact fees and the possibility of a future penny transportation sales tax referendum.

A selection committee consisting of the Assistant County Administrator for Civic Engagement & Outreach (Monica Spells), County Attorney (Tom Keaveny), Director of Transportation Engineering (Colin Kinton), Director of Facilities & Construction Engineering (Rob McFee), and the Director of Employee Services (Suzanne Gregory), reviewed and ranked the proposals based on the criteria provided in the solicitation. Three firms were shortlisted for interviews. One of the firms, Chernoff Newman, declined the interview and withdrew from the process, citing a busy schedule. The committee ended up interviewing two firms, NP Strategy and the Williams Group. After the interviews, the selection committee completed their evaluation and selected NP Strategy as the best qualified to provide the aforementioned services for Beaufort County.

RESPONSES AND FINAL RANKING:

"BEST AND FINAL OFFER"

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. NP Strategy, Columbia, SC | \$140,000 |
| 2. Williams Group, Beaufort, SC | \$51,500 |

FUNDING: To be determined by County Council upon award.

FOR ACTION: Public Facilities Meeting April 23, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: The Public Facilities Committee approve and recommend to County Council that Beaufort County enter into a contract with NP Strategy for a contract price not to exceed \$140,000.

CC: Joshua Gruber, Interim County Administrator
Alicia Holland, Assistant County Administrator, Finance

Att: Scoring Summary

Marketing Consulting Services for Beaufort County

RFP 030818

Summary Score Sheet

2nd Review

Evaluators	Name of Company	Name of Company
	<u>NP Strategy</u>	<u>Williams Group</u>
T. Keaveny	89	55.5
C. Kinton	80	88
R. McFee	95	84
M. Spells	76	64
S. Gregory	76	61
TOTALS:	416	352.5
1. NP Strategy		
2. Williams Group		

2018/___

AN ORDINANCE TO DELETE ORDINANCE 2001/24 ELIMINATING THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT AND TO ACCEPT INTO THE COUNTY'S MAINTENANCE SYSTEM THE ROADWAYS IN THE OAK MARSH PLANTATION SUBDIVISION.

WHEREAS, in 2001 Beaufort County adopted ordinance 2001/24 establishing the Oak Marsh Plantation Special Purpose Tax District ("SPD"); and

WHEREAS, the SPD was adopted pursuant to the Oak Marsh Property Owners' Association (POA) request for the County to accept the roads and drainage easements into the County Maintenance Inventory; and

WHEREAS, at the time the SPD was adopted, approximately \$56,737.00 in improvements to the roads and/or drainage were expected to be done; and

WHEREAS, the intention of the SPD was to assess a special tax on the beneficiaries of the SPD to provide for 50% of the estimated cost for improvements to the roadways, or \$28,368.50; and

WHEREAS, through an apparent oversight the \$28,368.50 was never collected, however the County began and has continued to provide maintenance for the roadways and roadway drainage in the Oak Marsh subdivision; and

WHEREAS, records from the 2001 request by the Oak Marsh POA include a properly executed quit claim deed transferring the roads to Beaufort County, however said deed apparently was never filed with the Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, at the March 26, 2018 meeting of the Public Facilities Committee, the committee did unanimously recommended waiver of the \$28,368.50, to rescind Ordinance 2001/24 thereby eliminating the SPD, and to formally accept the roadways and road drainage system of the Oak Marsh Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County Council finds that under the circumstances and the length of time since the POA's original request in 2001, accepting the roadways, eliminating the SPD, and waiving the fees is in the best interest of the citizens and visitors of Beaufort County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by Beaufort County Council that Division 5 of the Beaufort County Code Ordinances be amended as shown with strikethrough (—) below to delete the Oak Marsh Plantation Special Purpose Tax District. Be it further ordained, that the roadways in the Oak Marsh Plantation subdivision, serving the 32 lots located therein, are hereby accepted into the County's maintenance system and the \$28,368.50 condition precedent for accepting the roadways is hereby waived.

~~DIVISION 5. OAK MARSH PLANTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT~~

~~Sec. 66-371. Creation; boundaries.~~

~~There is hereby created a special purpose tax district to be known as Oak Marsh Plantation Special Purpose Tax District which shall include those 32 lots located at Oak Marsh Plantation Subdivision, on/in Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, in Oak Marsh Plantation Subdivision shown on the plats hereinabove described.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2001-24, § I, 9-10-01)~~

~~Sec. 66-372. Board of commissioners—Creation, composition, and terms of office.~~

- ~~(a) There is hereby established the Oak Marsh Plantation Board of Commissioners, composed of five members or fewer to be appointed by the majority vote of Beaufort County Council. Members of the board must be record owners, either in whole or part, of a lot or lots of land in Oak Marsh Plantation Subdivision.~~
- ~~(b) The term of office shall be for a period of four years and shall continue until successors are appointed and qualified. The board of commissioners shall follow the guidelines as established in the county's template ordinance.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2001-24, § II, 9-10-01)~~

~~Sec. 66-373. Compensation.~~

~~The board members shall serve without pay and shall annually file a report with Beaufort County Council, not later than November 1 of each year, showing all activities and disbursements during the fiscal year. The board shall select from among themselves a chairman, vice chairman, secretary/treasurer, who shall each serve for two years, from the date of their respective appointment. All official documents shall be signed by the chairman and attested by the secretary, except that all disbursements shall be by the treasurer.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2001-24, § III, 9-10-01)~~

~~Sec. 66-374. Powers and duties.~~

~~The board of commissions shall have the following powers and duties.~~

- ~~(a) *Adopt budget.* To adopt an annual budget for the operation of the district and approve the expenditure of all funds; and~~
- ~~(b) *Assessment.* The board may increase the assessment by majority vote of the board or by authority of this division should inflation exceed the passbook rate thereby requiring additional funds to meet budgeted expenditures or, if consolidation of lots occur, the commission shall ensure proper assessment on an original plat basis. If the board fails to provide for an assessment in any year, the county auditor and treasurer are directed to continue assessment as was established for prior years; and~~

- ~~(c) *Borrow money or accept donations.* To borrow money or accept donations under such terms and conditions as it may deem beneficial for the district, and use or expend the same for the purposes of maintaining roads and improving drainage and other public works incident to road maintenance. The full faith and taxing power of the tax district is hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the indebtedness of the tax district; and~~
- ~~(d) *Collect and disburse assessments.* To levy and assess each lot within the district on an equal, per lot basis, through the auditor and treasurer of Beaufort County. The initial assessments shall be \$88.66 per lot per year. Upon collection of said assessments, the board shall, after deducting its costs therefrom, disburse the same to any lender or other source of funding as may be necessary to pay any indebtedness by or on the behalf of the district. Remaining funds shall be placed in an escrow account bearing the highest percentage rate available and under the protection of FDIC or FSLIC as a safeguard against inflation; and~~
- ~~(e) *[Contract for road maintenance.]* Enter into contracts for road resurfacing and/or maintenance and other public works incident to road resurfacing and/or maintenance; and~~
- ~~(f) *[Maintain roads considering public works.]* Resurface and maintain roads, to include drainage and other public works incident to road resurfacing and maintenance in the tax district; and~~
- ~~(g) *[Maintain roads and drainage easements.]* Maintain roads and drainage easements in the tax district.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2001-24, § IV, 9-10-01)~~

~~Sec. 66-375. Duties of county auditor and treasurer.~~

~~The auditor and treasurer and Beaufort County Council are hereby directed to levy and assess each lot within the district and collect a tax therefrom, for such amounts as directed by the board of commissioners, first assessment being \$88.66 per year per lot for Oak Marsh Plantation Special Purpose Tax District. (The formula for assessment shall be computed as follows: One-half of the estimated cost of resurfacing (\$28,368.50) divided by the number of lots (32). Equation based upon \$28,368.50 to be paid over a ten-year period.) All sums collected shall be credited to the district and delivered to such persons or entities as may be directed by the board. The board is responsible for notifying the county auditor of said assessment by March 15 of each calendar year.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2001-24, § V, 9-10-01)~~

~~Sec. 66-376. Termination of tax district.~~

~~The board or commission shall be allowed to petition Beaufort County to be dissolved upon presentation of sufficient documentation that the roads and drainage which have been maintained by the special purpose tax district have been accepted for perpetual care and maintenance by a governmental agency or duly incorporated homeowners association. Beaufort County Council may, by majority vote, determine whether to dissolve the tax district or continue its existence.~~

~~Upon the tax district being dissolved, any funds belonging to the tax district shall be paid to the Oak Marsh Property Owners' Association if formed, if not, excess shall escheat to the General Fund of Beaufort County Council.~~

DONE this ____ day of _____, 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley Bennett, Clerk to Council

First Reading: April 9, 2018
Second Reading:
Public Hearing:
Third and Final Reading:

RESOLUTION 2018/

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A TITLE VI (OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964) PLAN
FOR THE BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Federal government enacted the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, to prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, religion, or language, and to ensure that individuals are not excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, religion, or language; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Beaufort County Council to assure affirmative compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and its related statutes; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County Council is also committed to assuring every effort will be made to prevent the discrimination of low-income and minority populations as a result of any impact of its programs or activities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, additional regulations, statutes, directives, cases, and executive orders have been passed which expand the breadth of Title VI; and

WHEREAS, it is a requirement of the United States Department of Transportation and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) that communities receiving Federal financial assistance adopt a Title VI Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Department receives grant funding from SCDOT to provide enhanced transportation options for persons with disabilities in our community to help improve their access to programs and services as a quality of life measure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA adopts the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Department Title VI Plan.

DONE this ____ day of April, 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____

D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, Esquire
Beaufort County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 / ____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A QUESTION ON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 6, 2018, CONCERNING A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING BEAUFORT COUNTY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR PRESERVATION AND TO PAY CERTAIN COSTS AND DEBT SERVICE RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Beaufort County has experienced a very high rate of growth during the last decade and the Beaufort County Council recognizes the need to preserve land that has scenic, natural, recreational, rural, and open space character which is deemed essential to the County ' s quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County has created a citizen advisory board known as the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board for the purpose of identifying and evaluating potential lands for preservation based upon an official criteria and ranking system established for the County; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board has requested that the County conduct a referendum, that, if favorably approved by the citizens of Beaufort County, would allocate 1.823 mills in ad valorem taxes for the express purpose of continuing the acquisition of lands for conservation and recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board has additionally requested that an amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total amounts borrowed under this referendum be allowed for use in the making of improvements, outside the scope of general property maintenance, to those lands which have been acquired by the County under previous rural and critical lands purchases and all such lands acquired under this current proposed borrowing; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County forecasts that a levy of 1.823 mills as requested by the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board will raise sufficient revenue to finance the issuance of \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of Beaufort County Council that at the time of this borrowing, the anticipated repayment shall never exceed more than 1.823 mills; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the bond proceeds are to provide for and protect natural areas and open space, to protect water quality, to preserve land for recreational activities, to preserve farm and forest land, to preserve the rural character of Beaufort County and to protect other environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, marsh lands and headwater areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Beaufort County Council that pursuant to the provisions of Title 4 of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, 1976, as amended, the Beaufort County Council hereby directs the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration to print on the official ballot to be used in the General Election to be held on November 6, 2018 the following public question:

OFFICIAL BALLOT, REFERENDUM
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000,000
FOR LAND PRESERVATION TO PROTECT NATURAL LAND, FARMLAND AND
WATER QUALITY

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

“Shall Beaufort County, South Carolina, issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$50 million, for the purpose of land preservation, by purchasing open land in Beaufort County in order to protect water quality, protect local waterways such as the Port Royal Sound, and local creeks and rivers such as the Okatie, Broad and May Rivers, wildlife areas, wetlands, natural lands, farmland, coastal areas, shellfish beds, and nursery areas for recreational and commercial fisheries, and beaches, and provide buffers for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. All expenditures shall be subject to an annual independent audit and an amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the funds created by this referendum may be used to improve existing and newly acquired open space and natural areas protected under this program?”

If the voter wishes to vote in favor of the question, place a check or cross mark in the square after the words “In favor of the question”; if the voter wishes to vote against the question, place a check or cross mark in the square after the words “Opposed to the question.”

YES	In favor of the question	[]
NO	Opposed to the question	[]”

If this question is approved, then Beaufort County will be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$50 million. The bond funds will allow Beaufort County to continue to preserve open land as well as making certain limited improvements to such lands. Bond funds may be used only for the purposes stated in the ballot question. None of the funds may be used for any other purpose, or for administrative expenses of Beaufort County. However, the County shall be permitted to expend bond funds to engage a qualifying organization(s) in the management of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program. An annual audit will verify that the funds are used as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that certified copies of this Ordinance be forwarded to the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration, Clerk of Beaufort County, Mayors and Clerks of Beaufort County municipalities, Beaufort County Legislative Delegation, Beaufort County Council, Director of Finance, Planning Director, Director of Parks and Recreation, County Auditor, and the Chairman of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, Esquire
Beaufort County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

First Reading,
Second Reading:
Public Hearing:
Third and Final Reading:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD RECOMMENDING COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A QUESTION ON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 6, 2018,

WHEREAS, Beaufort County has experienced a very high rate of growth and the Beaufort County Council recognizes the need to preserve land that has scenic, natural, recreational, rural, and open space character which is deemed essential to the County's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County has created a citizen advisory committee known as the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board for the purpose of identifying and evaluating potential lands for preservation based upon an official criteria and ranking system established for the County; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board has requested that the County conduct a referendum that if favorably approved by the citizens of Beaufort County, would allocate 1.823 mill in ad valorem taxes for the express purpose of continuing the acquisition of lands for conservation and recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board has additionally requested that an amount not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total amounts borrowed under this referendum be allowed for the use in the making of improvements, outside the scope of general property maintenance, to those lands which have been acquired by the County under previous rural and critical lands programs and all such lands acquired under this current proposed borrowing; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County forecasts that a levy of 1.823 mill as requested by the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation will raise sufficient revenue to finance the issuance of \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of Beaufort County Council that at the time of this borrowing, the anticipated repayment shall never exceed more than 1.823 mill; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the bond proceeds are to provide for and protect natural areas and open space, to protect water quality from harmful effects of over-development, to preserve land for recreational activities, to preserve farm and forest land, to preserve the rural character of Beaufort County, and to protect other environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, marsh lands and headwater areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board recommends pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-9-30, *et seq.* of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina*, 1976, as amended, the Beaufort County Council directs the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration to print on the official ballot to be used in the General Election to be held on November 6, 2018 the following public question:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT, REFERENDUM GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOT
TO EXCEED \$50,000,000 FOR LAND PRESERVATION TO PROTECT NATURAL
LAND, FARMLAND AND WATER QUALITY**

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

“Shall Beaufort County, South Carolina issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$50 million, for the purpose of land preservation, by purchasing open land in Beaufort County in order to protect water quality, protect local waterways such as the Port Royal Sound, and local creeks and rivers such as the Okatie, Broad, and May Rivers, wildlife areas, wetlands, natural lands, farmland, coastal areas, shellfish beds and nursery areas for recreational and commercial fisheries, and beaches, and provide buffers for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. All expenditures shall be subject to an annual independent audit and an amount not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the funds that may be used to improve existing and newly acquired open space and natural areas protected under this program?”

If the voter wishes to vote in favor of the question, place a check or cross mark in the square after the words “In favor of the question”; if the voter wishes to vote against the question, place a check or cross mark in the square after the words “Opposed to the question.”

YES	In favor of the question	[]
NO	Opposed to the question	[]

If this question is approved, then Beaufort County will be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$50 million. The bond funds will allow Beaufort County to continue to preserve open land as well as making improvements to such lands. Bond funds may be used only for the purposes stated in the ballot question. None of the funds may be used for any other purpose, or for administrative expenses of Beaufort County. However, the County shall be permitted to expend bond funds to engage a qualifying organization(s) in the management of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program. An annual audit will verify that the funds are used as required by law.

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2018.

Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board

BY: Michael Mathews
Michael Mathews, Chairman

The economic benefits of parks, trails, and conserved open spaces in Beaufort County, South Carolina

THE
TRUST
FOR
PUBLIC
LAND



The parks, trails, and conserved open spaces in Beaufort County provide substantial economic benefits to the community's residents. Many people understand that parks, trails, and conserved open spaces are a valuable component of healthy communities, but this value is rarely quantified. A new report by the Trust for Public Land analyzes these amenities in Beaufort County for the first time and documents a selection of the significant economic benefits that they generate.

For the full report, visit
www.tpl.org/beaufort-county-economic-benefits

Places like Hunting Island State Park, Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, the Spanish Moss Trail, Oyster Factory Park, and Chaplin Community Park as well as lands acquired through the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program create diverse economic benefits for Beaufort County's residents, businesses, and government. These lands enhance property values, infiltrate stormwater, improve air quality, attract visitors to the county, provide recreational opportunities for residents, improve human health, boost economic development, and bolster the farming and defense industries.

Enhancing property values

People in Beaufort County enjoy living close to parks, trails, and conserved open spaces and they are willing to pay for this proximity. These amenities raise the value of nearby homes by a total of \$127 million and increase property tax revenues by \$1.12 million a year. A subset of this total, Rural and Critical Lands (RCL) increase property values by \$22.5 million and boost annual tax revenues by \$174,000.

Providing essential natural goods and services

Beaufort County's parks and conserved lands reduce stormwater by capturing precipitation and slowing its runoff. These spaces also remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures. Throughout the county, these lands provide stormwater infiltration services of \$27.4 million annually, \$8.10 million of which is generated by RCL. They also provide air pollution removal benefits of \$317,000 per year, \$72,900 of which is generated by RCL.

Boosting tourism

Tourism is a key component of the Beaufort County economy. At least 9 percent of visitors to the county come primarily to visit parks, trails, and conserved open spaces. These visitors are estimated to spend \$116 million annually and generate \$3.46 million in local tax revenues.

Enabling recreation

Residents of Beaufort County also enjoy parks, trails, and conserved open spaces. Each year, county residents make hundreds of thousands of visits to these places to walk, hike, relax, visit with friends and family, and engage in other activities. In total, residents receive an annual benefit of \$16.8 million for the recreational use of these amenities.

Increasing public health

Research shows that park and trail use increases physical activity and results in medical care cost savings. While all Beaufort County residents who visit parks, trails, and conserved open spaces improve their health by visiting, approximately 5,790 adults use these spaces for enough physical activity to result in measurable medical cost savings, totaling \$7.91 million per year.

Propelling economic development

Parks, trails, and conserved open spaces contribute to the high quality of life in Beaufort County, which attracts businesses and employees. By providing opportunities for recreation, these amenities also support \$12.8 million in resident spending on sports, recreation, and exercise equipment annually.

Bolstering the farming industry

Land conservation supports the farming industry in Beaufort County by helping to maintain the working landscape on which this industry depends. Together, the county's 137 farms generate over \$28.3 million in agricultural products annually.

Supporting military bases and the economy

Defense is a key industry in Beaufort County, where three major installations support 14,900 jobs. Land conservation helps the U.S. military create safe buffer zones around installations, separating growing communities from land needed for vital training missions and base operations.

SOURCE: The Trust for Public Land, *The economic benefits of parks, trails, and conserved open spaces in Beaufort County, South Carolina*. San Francisco, CA: The Trust for Public Land, 2018.

This project was completed with generous support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, and Beaufort County Open Land Trust.



The Trust for Public Land
creates parks and protects
land for people, ensuring
healthy, livable communities for
generations to come.

tpl.org

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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PHOTO: AJ PIERRO PHOTOGRAPHY
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John Wilson Research

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MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JOHN WILSON

DATE: APRIL 4, 2018

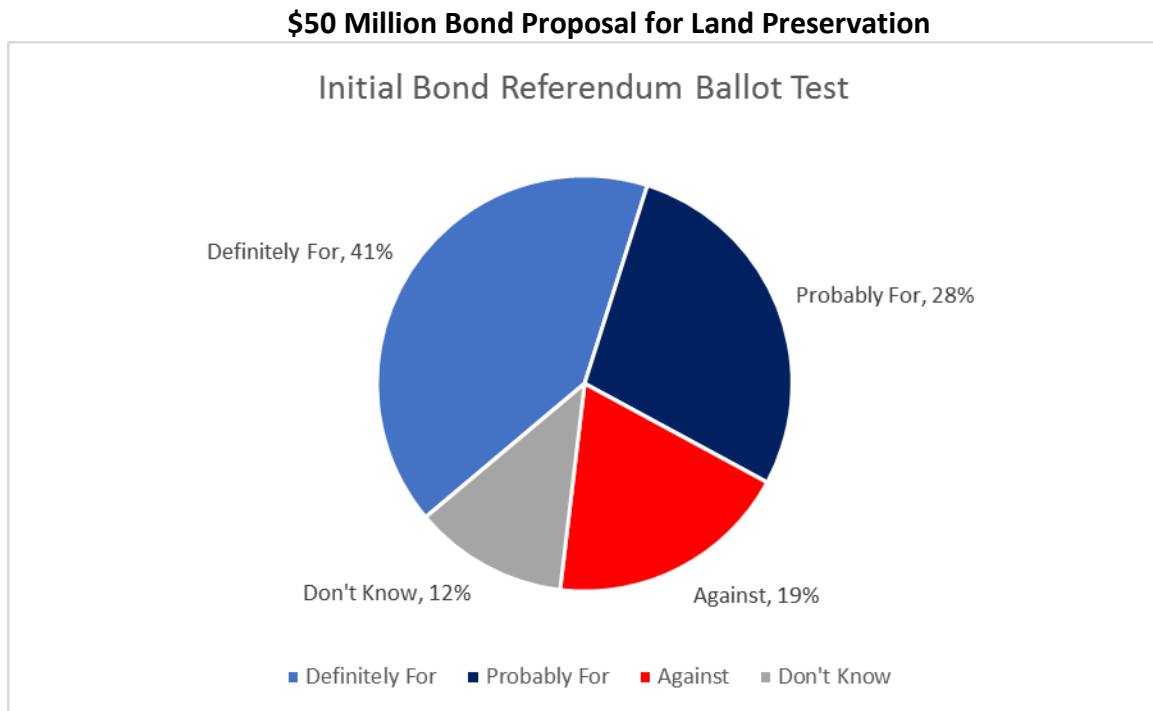
RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF VOTERS THROUGHOUT BEAUFORT COUNTY REGARDING SUPPORT FOR A BALLOT MEASURE TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Trust for Public Land commissioned John Wilson Research to complete a statistically valid survey of Beaufort County voters regarding their support for a bond referendum to fund land conservation through the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program. The random sample was drawn from registered voters throughout the county who had voted in the 2016 election, or registered to vote in the county since the last presidential election. Interviews were distributed proportionally throughout the county. The sample is also demographically representative of the profile of likely November 2018 voters. The survey was conducted March 27-29, 2018 on both landline and cell phones, and has an overall margin of error of +4.9%. Sampling error for subgroups within the sample will be larger.

- **More than two-thirds of likely voters indicate that they would vote Yes if the election were being held today for a ballot measure that would fund land preservation through a \$50 million general obligation bond.** Respondents were presented with the following language of the proposal as it would appear on a future ballot:

“Shall Beaufort County, South Carolina issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$50 million, for the purpose of land preservation, by purchasing open land, development rights and conservation easements in all areas of Beaufort County in order to alleviate traffic congestion in high growth areas and to protect water quality, natural lands, wildlife areas, farmland, parkland, recreational areas, coastal areas, rivers and wetlands, provided that all expenditures shall be prioritized based upon an official criteria and ranking system established for the County and subject to an annual independent audit?”

Given this language, a large majority of Beaufort County voters (68 percent) indicate they will vote Yes, with 41 percent of the electorate indicating they will “definitely” vote Yes. Just 19 percent indicate opposition at this time and 13 percent are undecided.



- **While knowledge of the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program is high, Beaufort County voters support the \$50 million bond regardless of how much they know about the program.** Nearly half (49 percent) of county voters indicate they have some knowledge of the Preservation Program, with 13 percent saying they know “a great deal.” Awareness of the program is evident throughout the county with 51 percent of South County residents, 45 percent of Central County residents, and 50 percent of North County area residents indicating they know a great deal or a fair amount about the program.

Those who know about the program are very supportive of the \$50 million bond referendum. 66 percent of those who responded that they know “a great deal” or a “fair amount” about the Preservation Program say they would vote Yes for the bond, while 25 percent say they would oppose it, and 8 percent are undecided. Among those Beaufort voters who say they know either “not much” or “nothing” about the Preservation Program, support for the \$50 million bond proposal stands at 71 percent Yes, while 14 percent say they would oppose it, and 15 percent are undecided.

- **Voters respond positively to many of the specific uses for the funds for the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program, with an emphasis on water, including protecting water quality and local creeks and rivers.** The survey also reveals that voters are very positive about a number of ways in which funds from such a measure could be used.

Feature	% Strongly Approve	% Total Approve
To protect water quality.	80%	92%
To protect local creeks and rivers such as the Okatie, May, and Broad Rivers.	79%	95%
To preserve beaches.	74%	93%
To preserve wildlife areas.	71%	90%
To preserve coastal areas.	68%	88%
To protect shellfish beds and nursery areas for recreational fishing and commercial fisheries.	67%	91%
To protect wetlands.	68%	88%

- **Moreover, a few common sense accountability provisions also increase voter confidence in the proposal.** We tested a range of accountability provisions, many of which are already in place for the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program, in order to assess the impact it has on voters' willingness to support the \$50 million bond proposal. The strongest provisions are that:
 - The bond referendum language spells out in detail what the funds can be used for and the funds can only be used for those purposes. (79% more likely to vote Yes, 56% much more likely to vote Yes)
 - There will be an annual independent audit of how the funds are spent. (75% more likely to vote Yes, 52% much more likely to vote Yes)
- **After hearing more about the proposal, support increases slightly with 70 percent indicating that if the election were held today they would vote Yes for the \$50 million bond for land preservation.** In the survey, we simulated some of the give and take that could occur over the course of a campaign so that respondents heard a series of statements in support of and opposed to the proposal. After hearing all of the information over the course of the survey, fully 70 percent indicate they would vote Yes, with 35 percent saying they would definitely vote Yes. Just 19 percent oppose the proposal.