



COMMUNITY UPDATES

YORK GLOVER, DISTRICT 3

843-812-2909 | YGLOVER@BCGOV.NET

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR YOU, MAY - AUGUST 2024

2018 Sales Tax Referendum Project Update - MLK Pathway

Beaufort County will hold a public meeting for the Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Sidewalk project - one of the 14 priority locations approved by voters in the 2018 One Cent Sales Tax Referendum. The meeting will be held Thursday, June 27th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., at St. Helena Library.

The County will present the proposed 5' sidewalk from US 21 (Sea Island Parkway) to Johnathan Francis Senior Road. The meeting will be conducted as an informal, drop-in format. There will be displays that depict the proposed design, and representatives from Beaufort County Engineering, J. Bragg Consulting, and Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering will be available to discuss the proposed improvements, answer questions, and listen to feedback. No formal presentation will be made.



The proposed design exhibits and other project information will be available on a virtual meeting webpage beginning Monday, June 10 through Friday, July 12.

New Transportation Options for Parks and Recreation

Beaufort County Council recently approved the purchase of 2 36-passenger vans for use by the Parks and Recreation Department for a variety of programs. Our aim is to provide an updated and safe transportation option for citizens, while also enhancing its appearance to make it visually appealing to the community.



Expanded Wifi Access Coming to Saint Helena and Rural Areas

At its regular meeting on May 28, County Council voted to award American Rescue Act funds to Hargray for broadband service expansion to additional rural areas of St. Helena Island. This expansion will significantly broaden broadband choices for the citizens of St. Helena.

Russ Point Boat Landing Status Update

O'Quinn Marine Construction Inc. started stabilization work the week of 05/27. Work is expected to take a couple of weeks, barring any delays from weather, tides, or unforeseen circumstances. We hope to share the planned reopening date for Russ Point from SCPRT very soon.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE

Proposed 2024 Sales and Use Tax Referendum

Beaufort County Council is currently considering putting to the ballot in November a Sales and Use Tax Referendum. This proposed initiative replaces the Green Space Tax (which falls off at the end of 2024) and funds currently underfunded infrastructure projects, dirt road paving and resurfacing, safety projects, and emergency evacuation improvements. After a series of five community engagement events, Council decided to refer the referendum back to the Public Facilities and Safety Committee so that citizen feedback could be discussed, and any necessary changes made to the proposed ballot measure before it is finalized and presented to voters this November.



What is the Green Space Tax? How is it benefitting me?

Beaufort County voters overwhelmingly decided to fund the Green Space Tax at 1% in November of 2022. The purpose of the tax is to preserve open space, to protect critical and natural resources, and/or to provide land for recreation. The program allows for the purchase of development rights and fee simple interest in lands that are threatened by development, which, if it occurs, will have detrimental effects on land use patterns, traffic, public safety, stormwater runoff, water quality or other conservation objectives.

Now that the Program has been collecting funds for almost 2 years, we are seeing projects begin to move through the application process. Beaufort County made state history in March of 2024 by partnering with The Nature Conservancy, The Open Land Trust, the Department of Defense, and more to preserve the crucial waterfront property known as “Gregorie Neck.” This move helps bridge conservation efforts on one of the largest undeveloped wetland ecosystems on the Atlantic Coast, protecting water quality all the way downstream into the Port Royal Sound.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Beaufort County Council Meetings - 5 p.m.

June 10 | June 24 | July 8 | August 12

Community Services and Land Use Committee - 3 p.m.

June 10 | August 12*

**The Feasibility Study for St. Helena Performing Arts Center will be presented at the meeting on June 10*

Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee - 3 p.m.

June 17 | August 19

Public Facilities and Safety Committee - 3 p.m.

May 28 | June 24 | August 26

All meetings are held in Beaufort County Council Chambers, located at 100 Ribaut Road. Meetings are also livestreamed on beaufortcounty.tv. Visit www.beaufortcountysc.gov for the full meeting calendar, agendas, minutes, and more!



Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA

843-255-2000
www.beaufortcountysc.gov