

Meet Your County Council



Wm. Weston J. Newton (R)
Chairman
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 Term expires December 2010

Mr. Newton, a partner with Jones, Patterson, Simpson & Newton, P.A., was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable C. Weston Houck, Chief U.S. District Court Judge, South Carolina, and for the Honorable John H. Waller, Jr., Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court/Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit. He received his B.A. from Washington and Lee University in 1989 and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1993. Mr. Newton is a member of the South Carolina, Beaufort County, Hilton Head Island and American Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Hilton Head Island Sunset Rotary Club and serves on the Board for the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. He is a graduate of Leadership Hilton Head/Bluffton and serves on the Leadership Board of Regents. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Transportation Advisory Group.



W. R. "Skeet" Von Harten (R)
Vice Chairman
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 Term expires December 2008

Mr. Von Harten is a retired USMC Lieutenant Colonel; former Executive Director for the Beaufort County Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse; President & General Manager of The New Kinghorn Building Supply Company; Director, Project Planning & Development of Gray Holdings, L.P.; and Owner of Von Harten Consulting. He is the recipient of a Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, and the Purple Heart Medal, a Presidential Citation as Outstanding Vietnam Veteran in S.C., and the Governor's Award as S.C. Ambassador of Economic Development. Mr. Von Harten is a graduate of The Citadel (B.S. in Business Administration), U. S. Naval War College, and The George Washington University (M.S. Foreign Affairs). He is a past Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Beaufort County Council. Mr. Von Harten has also served as Commodore of the Beaufort County Water Festival, Chairman of the Burton Fire District Commission, Chairman of Beaufort County Economic Development Board, President of the Sea Island Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow) and Chairman of the Beaufort County Military Enhancement Committee. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Land Management; and member of Community Services and Public Safety, Finance, Legislative Affairs, and Public Services. He is also a member of Transportation Advisory Group.



Steven M. Baer (R)
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 Term expires December 2010

Mr. Baer has a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University. He is married to Sandy Baer and they have two children, Andy and Heather. His background is in telecommunications research, development and network planning with Bell Labs, AT&T and Bell System spin-offs. Early in his career, he was part of a small team that designed one of the world's first cordless phones. He led groups that did strategic, tactical, and economic planning for telecommunications networks, including assessment and expansion of the telecommunications network in Iran. His career involved study of issues at a deep technical level in order to develop and implement new technologies, new services, and techniques to improve efficiency. Most recently he was the co-inventor of a technical and economic planning system for wireless and broadband networks. He holds one patent. Until recently, Mr. Baer was a member of the Board of the Friends of the Hilton Head Library. He was editor and publisher for their Newsletter, as well as, the head of their nominating committee. He also developed a computer expansion plan for the Hilton Head Library.

He has assisted Beaufort County in video and audio conferencing systems between Beaufort and Hilton Head. He has organized an "inverse PTA" and helps with volunteer activities at a local senior center. He is an FCC licensed radio operator, a member of IEEE and HKN engineering societies, and writes a column for the Hilton Head Island Computer Club Newsletter. Committee Assignments: Vice Chairman of Legislative Affairs; Member of Finance, Land Management, and Public Services. He also serves on the Lowcountry Council of Governments.



Rick Caporale (R)
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 Term expires December 2010

Mr. Caporale holds a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Haven, a Master's degree in English and an Ed.S. in Higher Education from the University of Iowa. He has taught at several colleges, including Bunker Hill Community College in Boston as well as Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire. He retired from Hargray Communications, where he was sales manager, and opened a small telecommunications and consulting business. Currently, Mr. Caporale is employed by Embarq. Committee Assignments: Vice Chairman of Economic Development, and Finance; Member of Grants and Minority Affairs, Land Management, and Legislative Affairs.



Gerald Dawson (D)
 64-A Horace Dawson Drive
 Seabrook, SC 29940
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 Term expires December 2008

Mr. Dawson was born January 2, 1953, in Gardens Corner, SC. He received his early education through the Beaufort County school system. He later attended the Technical College of the Lowcountry, where he received certification as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and as a licensed Paramedic. Mr. Dawson was employed as a paramedic with Beaufort County EMS and was also a Postal Letter Carrier with the US Postal Service, from which he retired. He is an ordained minister and serves as Associate Minister of Mount Carmel Baptist Church. Mr. Dawson and his wife, Vivian, have four daughters and six grandchildren. Mr. Dawson has always displayed a keen interest in Beaufort County as well as in his community. He has served as President of the Dale-Lobeco Community Center; PTO President of James J. Davis Elementary School; volunteer EMT, Beaufort County EMS; EMS Paramedic; Sheldon Planning District Representative, Beaufort County Planning Commission; Sheldon Planning District Sub-Committee Chairman; Parris Island Ministries Campus Crusade for Christ Instructor; Member of the Governor's Comprehensive Strategies for Prevention (G-CAP). He is also affiliated with after school programs at James J. Davis Elementary and Whale Branch Middle Schools. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Grants and Minority Affairs; Vice Chairman of Community Services and Public Safety; and a member of Economic Development, Land Management, and Public Services. He also is a member of the Lowcountry Council Governments.



Herbert N. Glaze (D)
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 Burton, SC 29903
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 Term expires December 2008

Mr. Glaze is Assistant Principal at Beaufort High School and the Track and Field Coach. He attended Benedict College, B.S., and the Pepperdine University, M.Ed. He is a member of Beaufort County Education Association, Burton Advisory Committee, Marine Science Association, National Education Association, National Science Teachers Association, New Hope Christian Church (Deacon), Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Sons of Beaufort Masonic Lodge #36, South Carolina Education Association, South Carolina High School League, and South Carolina Track and Field Association. He coached the Beaufort High School Girl's Track Team for 28 years, winning 18 regional (conference) championships, 8 state championships, and 2 state runner's up. He was awarded the South Carolina Track and Field 4-A Coach of the Year in 2002, the High School Coaches Association's highest honor. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Public Services; a member of Community Services and Public Safety, and Grants and Minority Affairs. He also is a member of the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and Transportation Advisory Group.



William L. McBride (D)
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 St. Helena Island, SC 29920
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 Term expires December 2008

Mr. McBride, a retired high school science teacher, and a former high school department head, attended the South Carolina State University, B.S., M.Ed. and The Citadel, Ed.S. He is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (S.C. Chapter), Beaufort County Democratic Party, Lowcountry Council of Governments, St. Helena/Lady's Island Branch of the NAACP, South Carolina Science Council, Wesley United Methodist Church (Administrative and Trustee Boards). He is a board member and past president of South Carolina Association of Counties. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Community Services and Public Safety; and a member of Finance, Grants and Minority Affairs, Land Management, Legislative Affairs, and Public Services. He also is a member of Lowcountry Council of Governments.



Stewart Rodman (R)
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 Term expires December 2010

Stu was a founding partner in a private investment firm. Earlier he held manufacturing, finance and general management positions with several major corporations. Currently, Stu holds leadership positions on the boards of several national Christian ministries. In 2003, Stu served as Commissioner on the Governor's Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance. He has served on the Beaufort County Board of Education. Stu has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Cornell and an MBA from Harvard. He served as a Lieutenant in the US Army and is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Stu and Nina, his wife of 40 years, have two married children and reside in Sea Pines on Hilton Head. Committee assignments: Chairman of Finance; Vice Chairman of Public Services; Member of Community Services, and Economic Development. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Transportation Advisory Group.



Paul Sommerville (R)
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 Term expires December 2010

Mr. Sommerville is a Duke University graduate. His background is in labor relations, where he is a management consultant. He is married with two young daughters, and he is a U. S. Army veteran. A Beaufort native, he is an active church member of St. Helena's Episcopal Church. Mr. Sommerville feels that he is ready to give back to Beaufort County which has given him so much. Committee Assignments: Vice Chairman of Land Management; Member of Economic Development, Legislative Affairs, and Public Services.



Gerald W. Stewart (R)
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 Term expires December 2010

Mr. Stewart has a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Idaho, with post-doctoral studies at Washington University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has directed scientific programs at both public and private research facilities as well as co-founded and served for eighteen years as the Chief Executive of a technology-oriented, international publicly-traded corporation. For the past six years he has been and continues to be the principal in Cole Hill Associates, providing technical and financial management assistance to businesses and working with state and local governments to promote business, technology development and growth. Most recently Mr. Stewart consulted with New Hampshire's Office of Energy and Planning on the use of alternative energy sources for economic development.

Mr. Stewart has served as a Board Member for both public and private businesses; he is former Assistant Professor of Chemistry at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV; Chief of Supporting Research at the U.S. Dept. of Energy's Morgantown Energy Technology Center; and Chairman, CEO of Industrial Technologies, Inc, Milford, CT. He has served on the Bluffton Economic Development Committee, Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Board, Hilton Head Island/Bluffton's Government Affairs Committee, Sun City's Government and Business Affairs Committee, as well as a member of the Greater Island Committee. Committee Assignments: Chairman of Economic Development, and Legislative Affairs; Member of Finance, Grants and Minority Affairs, and Land Management.



Laura Von Harten
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 Term expires December 2010

Ms. Von Harten was born in Freeport, Texas, in 1964. She is a daughter of H.H. "Bubba" Von Harten and Patricia Von Harten. After graduating from Beaufort High School, she earned a B.A. in anthropology from the University of South Carolina and an M.A. in applied anthropology from the University of Kentucky. Ms. Von Harten worked in the shrimp industry for twenty years and has additional private sector experience in product development and marketing. She served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina Beaufort and Eastern Kentucky University; she has also worked for over a dozen governmental and nongovernmental entities. As a South Carolina Arts Commission Community Scholar, Ms. Von Harten collected oral histories of local seafood industry workers, and she continues to study and write about the Lowcountry. Ms. Von Harten is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort. Committee Assignments: Vice Chairman of Grants and Minority Affairs; Member of Community Services and Public Safety, Finance, and Legislative Affairs. She also is a member of the Lowcountry Council of Governments.