



City Council Regular Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

February 10, 2026

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**6:00 PM**

Philip Cromer, Mayor

Members of Council in attendance - Philip Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Michael McFee, Josh Scallate.

Absent: Mitch Mitchell.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Michael McFee, Mayor Pro Tem

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

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City Manager, Scott Marshall, presented Cora Lee Shoemaker, from Public Works, with a plaque upon her retirement with 31 years of service to the City of Beaufort.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Joe Macdermant, 1809 Boundary Street, spoke about recreation and The Bluff.

Graham Trask, 1211 Bay Street, spoke about the Noise Ordinance and the proposed start and ending times. He also spoke about the Social Media Policy and feels it is the first step towards censorship.

**V. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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Motion to approve the Meeting Agenda was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

**VI. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

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A. Character Education Proclamation, Clara Grace Harbin, Beaufort High School.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Proclamation proclaiming February 17 - 22, 2026, as Beaufort International Film Festival Week.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Proclamation proclaiming February 2026 as National Black History Month.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Scallate and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Items approved are listed below:

- A. Capital Projects Monthly Report.
- B. Community Development Monthly Report.
- C. Downtown Operations Monthly Report.
- D. Finance Department Monthly Report.
- E. Fire Department Monthly Report.
- F. Human Resources Monthly Report.
- G. IT Monthly Report.
- H. Municipal Court Monthly Report.
- I. Police Department Monthly Report.
- J. Public Works Monthly Report.
- K. Request from Tidal Creek Fellowship to host their Easter Festival at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park from 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm on Sunday, March 22, 2026, as well as co-sponsorship for use of the park.
- L. Request from the Friends of the Library Bookstore to host its annual book sale from Friday, November 6, to Sunday, November 8, 2026, with set-up on November 5, 2026, at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park Pavilion. Friends of the Library is requesting co-sponsorship of the Pavilion for the duration of the event.
- M. Request from the Historic Beaufort Foundation to host the 2026 Spring Architect's Tour on Saturday, March 21, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, The request includes signage, parking, and the use of golf carts to transport guests to and from the parking areas during tour hours.

## VIII. MINUTES

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- A. Regular Meeting - January 13, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Minutes approved as presented.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

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- A. Request from Cub Scout Pack 1 for co-sponsorship of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park for their annual graduation on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- B. Request from Mr. and Mrs. Denny Wiener of 500 Port Republic St to waive loud and unseemly noise ordinances for a wedding on April 11, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm on their property.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- C. Request from Holy Trinity Classical Christian School to reschedule the 7th annual Swing Bridge 5K Run from Saturday, October 31, 2026, to Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 6:00 am to 10:00 am.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- D. Request for co-sponsorship from The Original Gullah Festival for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, May 21-24, 2026, includes request for a waiver of noise ordinance, waiver of food trucks in the Marina parking lot, request for an on-call electrician during working hours free of charge, access to restrooms after hours and fireworks display 9:00 pm on Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Scallate and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- E. Request from the Beaufort Water Festival for use of the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park, 10% reduction of rental fees due to closure of the promenade, street closures, sale and use of alcohol, use of day dock, waiver of noise ordinance, and sponsorship of \$7,500.00 for the Opening Ceremony's Fireworks for the 70th Annual Beaufort Water Festival, July 14, 2026, to July 28, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

- F. Consideration of a Resolution Establishing a Downtown Advisory Board.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations Director, provided a summary of what this board will be tasked with. This will be a 15 member board with 9 of those members being appointed by Council. The following details the member seats.

Downtown Business Representatives (3)

- One (1) retail business representative
  - One (1) accommodation business representative
  - One (1) tour operator representative
- Appointed by majority vote of City Council.

Downtown Property Owners/Developers (2)  
Appointed by majority vote of City Council.

Neighborhood Representatives (3)

One (1) representative from The Point Neighborhood  
One (1) representative from the Old Commons Neighborhood  
One (1) representative from the Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood  
Appointed by majority vote of City Council.

Organizational Representatives (6)

Historic Beaufort Foundation  
Beaufort-Port Royal Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce  
Beaufort Area Hospitality Association  
Freedman Arts District

Each representative will be appointed by majority vote of the respective organization's governing board.

At-Large Member (1)

One (1) individual who lives or works downtown, appointed by majority vote of City Council.

**All were in favor, motion carried.**

G. Consideration of a Resolution Adopting a Social Media Community Comment Policy.

**Motion to approve was made by Councilman Scallate and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.**

Scott Marshall, City Manager, provided an overview of the policy.

**Councilman Scallate made a motion to amend by removing the first bullet:**

Reasonable and relevant to the post or topic of discussion.

**and changing the language under Public Records Disclaimer to:** All comments will be retained in accordance with applicable records retention schedules and will be producible in response to a lawful FOIA request.

**also the motion included adding an Appeals Section with the following language:**

Appeal Process - Users whose comments have been hidden, removed, or who have been restricted/blocked from commenting on City social media pages may appeal the decision if they believe it was made in error or does not align with this policy.

- Appeals must be submitted in writing (via email to the city manager or designee within 5 business days of the action.)

- The appeal should include:

- The user's name and contact information.
- A description of the specific comment or action being appealed (e.g., link to the post, screenshot, or date/time if available).
- An explanation of why the user believes the comment does not violate the City's

Social -Media Community Comment Policy or applicable law.

- Any supporting details or context.

- Upon receipt of a timely appeal, the City manager or designee will review the appeal, the original comment/action, and this policy.
- A written decision will be provided to the user (via the contact method provided) within 10 business days of receipt, explaining whether the original decision is upheld or reversed.
- If reversed, the comment will be restored, or the restriction will be lifted, allowing the user to repost or resume commenting (subject to ongoing compliance with the policy).
- Decisions are final, though repeated violations may still result in further restrictions under the Enforcement Section.
- This appeal process is intended to ensure fair and consistent application of the policy.
- Users are encouraged to use alternative engagement avenues (listed in the policy) for official inquiries or concerns while an appeal is pending.

**The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.**

**All were in favor of the amended motion. Motion carried.**

**All were in favor of the main motion. Motion carried.**

H. An ordinance to amend Part 8, Chapter 2, Parking, of the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances - First Reading.

**Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.**

Scott Marshall provided information on why this amendment needs to take place. This was due to the way the last amendment ordinance was written. It created ambiguity regarding whether other sections not listed were to be stricken. Those sections now need to be added back.

**Councilman Scallate made a motion to amend by adding:**

Employee Parking under Section 8-2001.

Changing the hours for parking in the Library Lot and Playground Lots from 2 hours to 4 hours under Section 8-2002(b).

Changing the hours from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, to 11:00 am - 7:00 pm under Section 8-2002(f).

Changing fines from \$400 to \$500 for Parking Illegally in a Handicapped Space and changing the Boot Fees from \$60.00 and \$80.00 to \$100.00 under Section 8-2015.1

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee seconded the motion.**

**All were in favor of the amended motion.**

**All were in favor of the main motion.**

I. An ordinance to amend Part 9, Chapter 1, Section 9-1008, Loud and Unseemly Noise, of the City of Beaufort Code of Ordinances - First Reading.

**Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.**

Stephanie Price, Police Chief, stated this ordinance is being presented to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment with current community expectations. The proposed revision

encompasses emerging noise sources, quality of life concerns for residents, and the need to balance neighborhood impacts with business and event activity. Over the past years, the noise ordinance has served as guidance for addressing loud and unseemly noise within the City. After discussion at a recent work session, City Council requested staff work collaboratively with the City Attorney to review the ordinance and suggest potential revisions. The resulting review is intended to ensure the ordinance remains effective, legally sound, and reflective of community expectations.

Councilman Lipsitz would like to see the section that speaks to Bay Street and its sidewalks, bounded by Carteret and Charles Streets, noise generated by the unamplified human voice remain that is in the lined version 4b. Mayor Pro Tem, McFee stated this was added due to a lawsuit that occurred in 1989. He believes the language was specific to that lawsuit and must remain in the ordinance. If this is mandated, then it must stay. This will be looked into.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee thinks the decibel levels are too high. Looking at the National Institute of Hearing Loss, he feels the highest decibel we should be looking at is 70. Councilman Scallate provided his viewpoint on this matter. He mentioned noise being plainly audible at 50 feet away from the source. Feels it is easier to enforce by measuring distance rather than decibel levels. Councilman Scallate would also like to see the time change from 7:00 am to 8:00 am for heavy equipment keeping it the same as the ordinance currently reads.

**Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to postpone First Reading until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scallate.**

All were in favor, motion carried.

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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Amanda Patel, 2450 Boundary Street, addressed the recent FOIA breach and the hiring of a third party to do the investigation. A copy of her remarks are attached to the minutes.

Dick Stewart addressed Council about the gifting of a fence in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park by the Freedman Arts District.

Greg Braswell, 2200 Wilson Drive, spoke about permitting for the Pigeon Point Boat Landing.

Jennifer Mader, 24 Frances Marion Circle, read the rest of Amanda Patel's remarks.

## **XI. REPORTS**

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### **City Manager's Report**

Wanted to make the public aware the FOIA release which included over 9,000 unredacted emails only went to one party, and that was the requester. As soon as the City became aware there was information that should not have been released, the party was notified. We requested to exchange the information with a redacted copy of the same information. How other parties are aware of what is exactly in that FOIA, we have no idea. Someone else must have released it to them because the City did not release those documents to Ms. Mader or to anyone else except for the people who were requesting it and too Councilman Scallate. That was the extent of the City's release.

Thanked Council for the productive Planning Retreat we had on January 29 and January 30, as well as to the public for their participation. Special thanks to Rob Cahill, Diane Farelly, and Graham Trask for their well thought out contributions and public comments. The retreat, along with all other public

meetings, is available to watch on the City's YouTube channel. Staff received direction from Council to research and bring back detailed information to them for consideration in future work sessions on a variety of topics. These topics include but are not limited to the feasibility of divestiture of certain real property assets, further discussion of activities that could be deemed non-essential and more appropriate for others to manage, and possible incentives to encourage annexation and redevelopment in certain areas of the City.

Progress continues on both the Charles-Craven and King Street drainage projects. Weather permitting, we expect crews to begin paving this week on the intersection of Bay and Charles Streets.

To improve project status and communications on the Charles-Craven project, SCOR has established a website devoted solely to this project at <https://scor.sc.gov/Beaufort>. The site contains the project's history, major project updates and real-time updates.

Is proud to report that Mauldin & Jenkins recently provided results of their annual financial and compliance audit of the City's finances. The audit was clean with no findings or discrepancies, which is an incredible testament to the financial stewardship and management of taxpayer resources. Congratulations to our Finance Director, Alan Eisenman and his team for a great job year after year.

Last Friday, we celebrated, together with the Town of Port Royal, a push-in ceremony for a new ladder truck at Fire Station 2. This new truck provides our fire department with our greatest reach and lifesaving capabilities. It has a 107-foot ladder and on-board crash response tools that are battery powered and ready to operate as soon as our firefighters arrive on scene. The truck, as most firetrucks this size, is an individual custom build and took the better part of two years from the time the City contracted for it until production was finished. This \$1.6 million purchase was made without incurring any additional debt to our taxpayers; a testament to prudent financial planning and budget execution by our Finance Department and Fire Department.

Hopes you will join us on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 11:00 am. for a special event at the Depot Road Trailhead. Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail will host a dual event. They will host a ribbon cutting for the opening of the Spanish Moss Trail to Downtown Beaufort connector and also celebrate the Kids in Parks National Designation.

A Taste of Beaufort is coming up quickly. Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2, 2026. Downtown Operations is calling all musical acts to light up our stage with incredible sounds, good vibes, and unforgettable performances for our Saturday show. Interested artists should contact our Downtown Operations staff for their moment in the spotlight.

Lastly, a reminder City offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 in honor of Presidents' Day.

### **Mayor's Report**

Reported on events and meetings he attended which included the MASC Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia.

### **Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

Reported the Lowcountry Council of Governments will be holding a Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting on February 12, 2026, for Natural and Manmade disasters in Yemassee, SC.

### **Councilman Scallate**

Is thankful for City employees like Cora Lee Showmaker that dedicated 32 years of time in helping establish integrity. Thankful for Public Works on having a team that can work efficiently and effectively. Excited to see the youth that are coming in as well. On the other hand, we have heard a

lot of criticism on several different things. Knows that it is hard to sometimes receive criticism. But is thankful for it, as it is necessary in order to grow.

**Councilman Lipsitz**

Congratulated Cora Lee Shoemaker on her retirement.

Congratulated Scott Marshall on a successful retreat.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding personnel - Boards, Commissions and Committees.
- B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding the purchase or sale of property.

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Actions taken after coming out of Executive Session.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee made a motion to appoint Stacy Applegate, Scott Gibbs, Jodie Miller, Sue Sagui, Marc Sviland and Fred Washington Jr. to the Historic District Task Force Committee. Mr. Washington will serve as an Ex-Officio member. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

**XIII. ADJOURN**

**8:26 PM**

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Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

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Disclaimer: This document captures all actions taken by Council and summarizes discussions. All City Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org) (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)(e), as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the City bulletin board and website [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org) twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.

approved: March 10, 2026  
Traci Guldner



# Public Comment - Amanda Petef 2/10/20

Good evening Mayor, Council Members, and City Manager.

*Amman 18 Mike Petef*

I'm here again tonight because, as I shared at the work session, the FOIA breach—and the system that allowed it to happen—continues to deeply concern me, both as a resident of this city and as a counselor who serves families in this community.  
[pause]

Since that work session, I've spent a great deal of time reflecting, and my guiding question has become very simple:  
[pause]

**How did we get here?**

[pause]

How did acknowledgment on the record and the hiring of an outside firm become enough?  
[pause]

Especially when the outside firm hired to review the FOIA breach is the same firm previously engaged to examine county procurement and Greenway governance issues—a firm familiar with local government processes, yet one whose work in other contexts has not always resulted in clear public closure.  
[pause]

When this City is led by individuals with decades of combined experience in public administration, risk management, emergency response, governance, business, and oversight—people whose professional lives have been built around anticipating harm, mitigating risk, and protecting the public when systems fail—  
[pause]

when expertise exists at this level, plausible deniability disappears—and responsibility becomes unavoidable.  
[hold]

**Question for the record:**

[pause]

If a third-party firm can conduct significant reviews without producing transparent public findings elsewhere, how can residents be assured that full accountability will occur here?  
[long pause]

That's not an accusation.

[pause]

That's reality.

[pause]

Again—how did that become enough?

[pause]

Because if we look at this city's recent history, acknowledgment alone has not been enough to restore public trust.

[pause]

I'm not a historian. But as a counselor, I am deeply familiar with research—and with how patterns, not intentions, tell the most honest story.

[pause]

And patterns are what concern me tonight.

[pause]

In May of 2025, a lawful FOIA request was submitted regarding a missing child case.

[pause]

The request was broad, yes—but it was legal, specific, and explicitly made in the public interest.

[pause]

In July of 2025, the City released approximately 9,000 documents in response.

[pause]

Many of those documents were unredacted.

[pause]

They included forensic interviews of minors, Department of Social Services records, and other protected information that should never have left secure custody.

[long pause]

The City later acknowledged this release as an error.

[pause]

The City Manager went on record accepting responsibility.

[pause]

So let's pause there.

[hold]

Responsibility was accepted.

[pause]

An internal review was referenced.

[pause]

A third-party investigation was announced.

[pause]

And that is where the public record goes quiet.  
[long pause]

There has been no public closure of the internal review.

[pause]

No public findings from the third-party firm.

[pause]

No explanation of who still possesses these records.

[pause]

No confirmation that all affected individuals were notified.

[pause]

No clear articulation of what safeguards were corrected.

[pause]

And no visible personnel or structural changes communicated to the public.

[long pause]

And I want to be very clear about something, because I know what the unspoken explanation may be.

[pause]

Even if the City believes that pending legal matters require caution in public communication, that does not suspend its responsibility to protect affected individuals.

[pause]

Litigation may explain silence.

[pause]

It does not justify it.

[pause]

And it does not replace the obligation to notify families, to correct systemic failures, or to demonstrate—clearly and publicly—that safeguards are now in place.

[pause]

Risk management is not the same as accountability.

[pause]

**That distinction matters.**

[long pause]

Because when systems are truly corrected, errors stop repeating.

[pause]

Yet residents have continued to report FOIA processing errors—including receiving both redacted and unredacted versions of the same records months after the breach.


[pause]

That tells us the problem was not isolated.  
[pause]

Now let's talk about what did happen next.  
[pause]

Six months after the largest FOIA failure in this city's history, the City implemented a FOIA fee and deposit structure—increasing both cost and procedural barriers to access.  
[pause]

At the same time, Council is <sup>WNTS</sup> considering adoption of a Social Media Community Comment Policy that limits public discussion on City platforms and redirects residents away from visible engagement and toward private channels.  
[pause]

 From the public's perspective, the sequence looks like this:  
[pause]

A serious systems failure involving children.

[pause]

No public closure or accountability.

[pause]

Continued errors.

[pause]

Then higher costs to access records.

[pause]

Then reduced public discourse.

[long pause]

That sequence matters.

[pause]

Because reforms are judged not just by legality, but by timing, impact, and lived experience.

[pause]

I want to add one critical fact that removes any ~~ambiguity~~ <sup>VAGUENESS</sup> about this being a one-off mistake.

[pause]

In a written response this week, the City Manager confirmed that the City does not have internal controls or checkpoints that flag high-volume or high-risk FOIA requests for additional review based on size or scope.

[long pause]

Meaning there was no safeguard to say:  
[pause]

“This request is unusually large.”

[pause]

“This request involves minors.”

[pause]

“This requires heightened review.”

[long pause]

**That distinction matters.**

[hold]

Because this was not simply a paperwork error.

[pause]

It was a known vulnerability left unguarded—before and after the breach.

[pause]

As a counselor, I need to speak to the human impact of that failure.

[pause]

A forensic interview is not just a document.

[pause]

It is a trauma-informed process designed to protect children from being retraumatized.

[pause]

Children involved in abuse or trafficking investigations are among the most vulnerable populations we serve. Research consistently shows that breaches of confidentiality significantly increase long-term psychological harm and permanently erode trust in institutions meant to protect them.

[long pause]

The professionals who conduct these interviews operate under strict ethical standards for a reason.

[pause]

And I can say with absolute certainty:

[pause]

Those forensic interviewers would be devastated to know that their work—and the children they were trying to protect—were exposed in this way.

[long pause]

This failure did not only affect families.

[pause]

It affected professionals.

[pause]

It affected trust.

[pause]

It affected the integrity of systems designed to protect the most vulnerable among us.

[long pause]

Now I want to ask a question that deserves an answer on the public record.

[pause]

Council Members—you have one employee.

[pause]

The City Manager works for you.

[pause]

On June 10, 2025, you approved what was intended to function as a safeguard—the FOIA fee scale—regardless of how it is categorized administratively.

[pause]

That safeguard was not applied when it mattered—and was not applied until last week.

[pause]

You were informed of the breach.

[pause]

You authorized investigations.

[pause]

And you were asked publicly at the last work session to communicate with residents about what had been corrected.

[pause]

Instead of that communication, what followed was movement toward restricting public engagement and increasing barriers to public records access.

[pause]

So here is the question:

[long pause]

**Why, after a documented failure involving minors, protected records, and public trust, has the City moved forward with new rules, procedures, and fee structures that restrict access and public-facing discourse before demonstrating—clearly and publicly—that the underlying system failure has been fully corrected and closed?**

[hold]

When access becomes harder after a failure,

[pause]

when voices are redirected away from public view,  
[pause]  
and when the same people remain responsible for the same systems—  
[pause]

that is not accountability.  
[pause]  
That is avoidance.  
[long pause]

These children will never know how many adults debated process while their privacy  
was exposed.  
[pause]

They will only know whether the people entrusted with their safety chose to act—or  
chose to move on.  
[pause]

Or will they ever know?  
[long pause]

**That distinction matters.**  
[hold]

And I hope tonight marks the moment when moving on without fully centering the safety  
and dignity of children in your decisions is no longer an option.  
[long pause]

Because this is not going away. As someone who has spent the majority of my career  
serving the most vulnerable children in this community, and as a mother raising my two  
children here, I cannot ethically or morally disengage while these failures remain  
unresolved.  
[pause]

Because someone needs to answer for this.  
[pause]

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda J. Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop over the first name.