

A regular session of Beaufort City Council was held on May 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Councilwoman Nan Sutton, Councilmen Mike McFee, Stephen Murray, and Phil Cromer, and Bill Prokop, city manager.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d) as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the regular council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION OF MARY LEGREE AS THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the proclamation. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman McFee read the proclamation, and Mayor Keyserling presented it to Ms. Legree. Ms. Legree said she was “so honored” to receive the award, and she discussed her work at the Visitors Center.

MINUTES

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting on April 9, 2019. The motion to approve the minutes as presented was approved unanimously.

ANNUAL STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR 5K RUN/WALK FOR CHRIST

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the request for the May 25, 2019 event. Rhonda Carey said this has traditionally been a walk, but there is an increase in people wanting to do a run, so the church is requesting street closures for those who want to run. She discussed the variation from the typical 5K route that the church is requesting.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the “issues with the police department” had been resolved. Ms. Carey said the police have approved this variation from the standard 5K route.

Kenneth Clyburn said this race began in the 1980s, with most of the church’s members walking and meeting up for fellowship. Now it is open to everyone who’d like to participate. They would like to continue the tradition, he said. He provided some details about the run/walk and said in partnership with Beaufort Memorial Hospital, there will be wellness checks for anyone, even if they are not participating in the walk/run. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH [1] [SEP]

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Prokop said this Saturday is the annual "Beaufort Swim" at Waterfront Park.

He read a letter from the Santa Elena Foundation, expressing gratitude to city staff and city council for its support of the Santa Maria ship that was docked in the downtown marina.

Mr. Prokop said upcoming events include the Gullah Festival, which begins May 24, and the Memorial Day parade and Decoration Day event at Washington Street Park, both of which take place on May 27.

Mr. Prokop discussed hurricane preparedness and said the first meeting about it was today. The hope is that citizens will prepare for hurricane season before it starts, he said.

Mr. Prokop said many infrastructure projects are underway (e.g., the Greenlawn Drive streetscape, The Arsenal roof project, stormwater ditch cleaning). Staff is hoping for good news about an application for a stormwater grant and a competition that would offer "free stormwater engineering on a major project." The City of Beaufort has gone on to round two of that competition, he said.

The police department will sponsor the 34th year of the "Movie Club," Mr. Prokop said. The program will be held at Beaufort High School for 5 weeks in June, and "different groups and clubs" at the high school "have been more than 1000% cooperative" and excited about this, he said.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Murray said Tech Connect is this Thursday at Beaufort Digital Corridor. There will be two sessions of "Game On" for middle and high school students this summer, with each session lasting a week.

Councilman Murray congratulated Blue Sky Processing, which will bring 16 jobs at its facility at Gardens Corners, as well as a multi-million dollar capital investment.

Project Glass is a prospect that would make approximately a \$60 million investment with 60+ jobs, Councilman Murray said. It would go into an existing building adjacent to Commerce Park.

Bill Workman passed away this past weekend, Councilman Murray said; he discussed

Mr. Workman's professional life and his contributions, including helping with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Councilman Murray said the EDC has generated \$42 million in capital investment so far this year, and "just over 300 jobs," with about \$19 million of the capital investment "specific to Northern Beaufort County."

There being no further business to come before council, Councilman Cromer made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to adjourn the regular council meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.