

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on January 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Planning Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, council members Donnie Ann Beer, George O'Kelley, Mike Sutton, and Mike McFee, and City Manager Scott Dadson.

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.

Mayor Keyserling called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS: REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Councilman McFee, and Commissioners **Mike McNally**, **Martin Goodman**, and **Edwin Barnhart** were interviewed in regard to their reappointments. Commissioner Barnhart declined reappointment because he feels he would not be able to attend more than 50% of the meetings. Commissioner McNally discussed his first year on the Commission. Commissioner Goodman did the same, discussing particular projects he's been involved with; he also complimented the Office of Civic Investment. Councilman McFee said he's enjoyed his time serving on the Redevelopment Commission and added that the contrast to when the Redevelopment Commission was comprised of council members "is night and day." He went on to compliment the Redevelopment Commission's work and those who serve on it. Mayor Keyserling, Councilwoman Beer and Councilman Sutton gave their take on the Redevelopment Commission, what it has accomplished, and what their hopes for it are. There was a discussion of zoning and Councilman O'Kelley thanked the commissioners for their service. Commissioner Barnhart said he could serve for the next two months, until someone is elected to replace him.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Determining Whether to Accept Contributions For A Future Founders Night Event

Mayor Keyserling said he had heard from a citizen who wanted Founders' Night to be an annual event. So far \$400 has been contributed to a fund that doesn't actually exist. Mayor Keyserling said he would like to find a group to organize it; he said the university might be able to do it. Councilman McFee said **Marlena Smalls** was hired to produce the performance element. Councilman Sutton suggested that other groups in town that put on events, such as Water Festival, could support Founders' Night, and it could take place not on New Year's Eve but during the Water Festival.

Councilman O'Kelley said he doesn't want the city to undertake that sort of expense each year. Councilman McFee said they never tried to get sponsorships last year, but they could in the future. He said either Main Street Beaufort or Water Festival could do it, and he'd prefer Water Festival. Mayor Keyserling suggested the ecumenical group could be called upon to take part in it. There was a brief discussion of the fireworks. Councilwoman Beer agreed with Mr. Dadson that it's good to have a family event on New Year's Eve.

Mr. Dadson said that council needs to direct staff to set up an account or not; if not, they can give the money back. Mayor Keyserling suggested that Councilman Sutton, Bonnie Hargrove, and Erin Dean be brought together for a meeting. There is a need to finish out the Beaufort 300, and they

are 12 short, Mayor Keyserling said, so that group could make a recommendation for council to consider. Mr. Dadson said they can hold it for now.

Proposed Joint City/County Council Meeting

Mr. Dadson said he'd provided council with a draft agenda for a future joint meeting, and asked council if they felt he was going in the right direction for such joint meetings. Mr. Dadson said the county complex master plan, the Beaufort master plan, and the Rail to Trail projects are items both councils have been discussing for some time.

Mayor Keyserling said the differences in the ways city council and county council work could be a concern. He wants to have these joint meetings but thinks there might be a different way to do it, e.g., meeting with a committee first. Mr. Dadson said he had put the agenda together from the city council's perspective in terms of how city council works. He said he hadn't talked to **Gary Kubic** about it yet. Councilman McFee said the content is good and there was general agreement. Mayor Keyserling said Mr. Dadson should add regional recreational assets to the agenda.

Councilman O'Kelley said such meetings would be informative for the county council. Mr. Dadson said he'd discuss this with Mr. Kubic. Mayor Keyserling said council has been before county council in some contexts, but there are some county council members who have not had any contact with city council. Councilman Sutton said he'd like to have a discussion with county council about TIFs.

Mr. Dadson pointed out that the council can make a better case as a group on an issue than he can as their representative. They are the city's partners and, he said, there are a lot of things to talk about. Mayor Keyserling said he thinks council is all for this, but that Mr. Dadson should discuss the "cultures" with Mr. Kubic.

Councilman McFee warned that the meetings could be very long if the agenda items aren't specific enough. Mr. Dadson discussed how that could be handled for an initial conversation without being overwhelming to either council. Councilwoman Beer said these meetings could be quarterly. Mayor Keyserling said they should start with one. Mayor Keyserling reiterated that it's a good idea but that Mr. Dadson "should work out the chemistry."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before city council, **Councilman O'Kelley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman McFee. The motion was approved unanimously**, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK