

A special work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on May 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Planning Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling and council members George O'Kelley, Stephen Murray, Phil Cromer, Mike McFee (by phone), and City Manager Bill Prokop.

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.

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS FY 2016 – PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING

Public Works Administration (501)

Lamar Taylor said this is a budget without “frills or fluff.” He showed the Public Work’s mission statement to open his presentation. There is a vacancy for an engineer, which the stormwater projects and others will require. Mayor Keyserling asked about the engineer on retainer, and Mr. Prokop said that expires in June. Mr. Taylor said the department is too large for one person to manage, and that’s why they need a second person.

The department manages 8 divisions, and Mr. Taylor described the duties of the department. The total administration request is for \$377,000, which is a decrease from the two previous years’ budget requests because they “have been just trying to maintain the status quo,” he said.

Mr. Taylor described the various divisions’ duties and what they would like to do.

- The street department (502) would like to explore more sidewalk replacements. They have collaborated with SCDOT on costs and duties for another project by putting budgets together. They have areas in mind that they would like to do, and that’s in their capital request, Mr. Taylor said.
- They respond to calls for service in regard to hazards, obstructions, and other safety issues.
- The street department maintains potholes on both SCDOT and city-owned streets. The city sweeps 19,600 lane miles annually; they are requesting some small equipment to make repairs. Mayor Keyserling asked if SCDOT can lend equipment, and Mr. Taylor said no, because it’s a liability.

Mr. Taylor showed the contract service numbers breakdown (Total: \$554,000):

- \$278,139 for landscaping contract
- \$25,000 landscaping for an additional two miles of the Spanish Moss Trail
- \$13,800 for street sweeping contract
- \$50,000 for maintenance of the urban forest
- \$75,000 for sidewalk and safety issues
- \$100,000 for mast arm upgrades
- \$10,000 for small in-house paving contracts

- \$2,500 for street easement maintenance

Capital requests: \$102,000

\$16,000 to replace the lowboy trailer – for heavy equipment in a hurricane evacuation

\$6200 for a Bobcat grader attachment

\$5763 for a Bobcat 80” bush hog attachment

\$75,000 for the Southside Boulevard sidewalk project

The total operating budget for Streets is \$960,000, which is an increase this fiscal year, Mr. Taylor said.

Parks Department (503)

- Mr. Taylor said Waterfront Park once had plants and color in it, but it no longer does, and they would like to revive that.
- A new excavator allowed them to repair a sinkhole before Taste of Beaufort last week. Mr. Taylor described some ideas that he will propose in budgets in the years to come.
- The Spanish Moss Trail budget request is for the first two miles for maintenance. It’s about \$25,000, Mr. Taylor said, to maintain that section of trail, in response to a question from Councilman Murray.
- In regard to the Commerce Park, there is washout and corrosion in “the two-mile section,” so they are partnering with the county and BJWSA.
- \$10,000 is requested for a sign, bush hogging, and “keeping the right-of-way looking good.”
- The county let Mr. Taylor know that people are dumping debris in Commerce Park.

Capital request - \$95,000

- \$60,000 for the pavilion, etc. in Waterfront Park
- \$7500 for Pigeon Point Trail extension – Councilman Murray asked if the neighborhood was contributing, and Mr. Taylor said, “That’s 100% the city.” Councilman McFee had told him the association might be able to raise some money to help, but they are budgeting for it fully in case that doesn’t happen.
- \$5,000 for furniture for the second phase of the West Street Ext.
- \$10,000 for light replacement at the day dock
- \$7,500 for Waterfront Park and Tic Tock playground equipment
- \$5,000 for 21 approved flower baskets to be set up on Bay Street – Councilman Murray asked if this cost was for maintenance of them, too, and Mr. Taylor said Ms. Hill is talking to merchants about maybe donating flowers. He said this was part of “a project to up the overall look of Bay Street.” Councilman O’Kelley said they have done similar things before, and “they fall apart . . . get vandalized,” etc. They need to be maintained. Mr. Taylor said. They would hang on a post, perhaps on a bracket. Councilman O’Kelley said they had done that before. Councilman McFee said the baskets

before weren't irrigated. Councilman O'Kelley said Public Works "would spray them with a hose on a truck." Mr. Taylor said the infrastructure is there to maintain the flower baskets now "as part of the downtown lighting project."

Operations/Facilities maintenance (\$358,600)

\$296,484 for landscaping contract

\$2,208 for Ecolab rat maintenance

\$30,000 for general maintenance

\$3800 request for treating 31 stressed Alta magnolias on the streetscape on Palmetto Street in front of the police department building

\$5,000 request to remove 12 trees from Waterfront Park

\$1,500 to replace sidewalk in front of Pigeon Point Park

\$8,000 for playground equipment repair and reinstallation

\$1,600 Tic Tock park swing replacement

\$10,000 for Commerce Park

Ms. Todd said the money for Southside Park was used last year, and Ms. Hill is working on spending this year's. If the money isn't spent, it lapses. There was \$25,000 last year, and \$19,000 rolled over into this budget because a request was put in for its use. There's now \$44,900. Mayor Keyserling said if the money is budgeted, "it should be for a need," and if it doesn't get done, it should stay there and accumulate because for many years it was budgeted and not used, which means "something's broken." Councilman Murray agreed and said if the money was there, it should be used.

Mr. Prokop said the part of the dog park that isn't done yet couldn't go forward until water and sewer are done. Ms. Todd said as long as there's an open purchase order with an active commitment, the money will not lapse.

Mr. Taylor said the maintenance material request is for \$80,000.

Mr. Taylor said \$575,000 is the total operating budget. The overall total budget for the parks department is \$1,363,868.34 including Main Street Beaufort, the Chamber of Commerce, Southside Park, Waterfront Park debt service, salary, benefits, "Other," and the capital budgets.

Councilman O'Kelley said he doesn't recall seeing the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Beaufort in the Parks budget before. Ms. Todd said a part of local Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax money is given to this budget. Councilman O'Kelley asked if it is "citizen tax money." Ms. Todd said it's only local hospitality and accommodations taxes. Ms. Todd said state law requires that money to be segregated from other money that the city collects. The revenue is also in Parks and is segregated. Mayor Keyserling said in reality, the parks' operating budget is \$421,000 less. Councilman O'Kelley said listing it this way is confusing because

money won't be collected from Main Street Beaufort and Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Todd said this is to eliminate confusion with the schedule. Councilman O'Kelley said this is confusing this way. Ms. Todd said this is part of the revenue side, which is why they show it. Councilman O'Kelley said Hospitality Tax and Accommodations Tax should be put in separately. Ms. Todd said her predecessors had collapsed Parks into this fund, and she's tried to re-segregate it, but "it's been very difficult on the revenue side."

Councilman Murray asked how much longer they have on the debt service to Waterfront Park. Ms. Todd said it's \$3.136 million, and the debt expires in 2026.

Councilman Murray asked Mr. Taylor the price of the maintenance bill on Waterfront Park annually. Mr. Prokop said \$296,000. In addition to the contract, Public Works has to repair bathrooms, irrigation breaking, etc. In actuality, it's closer to \$325,000-\$350,000.

Traffic Control (504)

Budget total – \$173,184

Councilman Murray asked all of the areas of stoplights that the City of Beaufort maintains, and Mr. Taylor described them, including going as far out as Harbor Island, which is reimbursed by the state to the tune of \$58,000. DOT owns the traffic control system, Mr. Taylor said. \$120,000, Mayor Keyserling said, is spent on that. Mr. Taylor said a lot more is done with that money than traffic control maintenance. Mayor Keyserling asked for "a figure at some point to represent the state-owned assets that the city residents maintain"; he would like to have these numbers to explain to citizens what is spent on stormwater, traffic control, and streets.

There was a general discussion about Public Works no longer being at the Prince Street facility. Councilman O'Kelley questioned the idea of selling the building because the city may need it. Councilman Murray suggested they could lease it to Park Beaufort, for example. Mayor Keyserling said the Old Commons area could have a small fire station.

Fleet Equipment Maintenance Dept. (505)

Mr. Taylor said they want to purchase a tire changer and balancer to save costs, because the current one is outdated, they still have to ship tires out to be balanced, and it only works for smaller tires.

Facility Maintenance (506)

This is a new division, Mr. Taylor said, and is to maintain the Carnegie Building, the old City Hall, the Arsenal, and the municipal buildings. The total request is \$573,086.60

Councilman Murray asked about the operating costs. The leases require that the city maintain the outside of the buildings, Mr. Taylor said. Councilman Murray said since

the Arsenal is a tourist attraction, it can qualify for Accommodations Tax money, and Mayor Keyserling said that's how they paid for the elevator.

One building Mr. Taylor said they want to pay attention to is Lowcountry Produce. To replace AC system would cost \$50,000, so they are requesting \$10,000 in case the compressor goes or anything else happens that is outside the maintenance budget.

Mr. Taylor said in future years, the windows and roof would need to be replaced because they are deteriorating, so there will need to be a reserve fund. Also, the city is responsible for "the Carteret Street building" and the Carnegie Building in the event of a hurricane, so they have budgeted the purchase of new lumber to seal the windows.

Because this is a new division, Mr. Taylor had prepared a "What if" handout which he had given to council. Councilman Cromer asked about budgeting for stucco on the Arsenal, and Mr. Taylor said they have no budget for that specifically, but there is a small maintenance budget that could be used for that. Every building has a contract on it in regard to maintenance.

Stormwater Department (530)

Mr. Taylor described projects that need work and some that had been done. Cleaning is done 3-4 times a year in older neighborhoods, and ditch maintenance and easement cleaning are done.

- \$13,000 ditch trencher
- \$30,000 Cottage Farm drainage project
- \$50,000 Southside Boulevard piping project
- \$5,258 for Hancock Street drainage project
- \$7,263 for North/West/Scott Streets – contingency
- \$8,300 for Azalea Drive drainage project – contingency
- \$4,400 for S. Heritage Drive drainage project – contingency

Mr. Taylor went on to describe the contract services:

- \$108,960 landscaping contract
- \$13,980 sweeping contract
- \$20,000 collapsed pipe (Battery Shores project)
- \$60,000 for the "vac" truck (contract)
- \$25,000 for the Jane Way ditch maintenance upgrades
- \$17,000 for engineering in anticipation of the EPA MS4 project

Stormwater request overall for 2016 is \$832,256.54.

Solid Waste Department (551)

The new contract should be in place by the next meeting, Mr. Taylor said. Mr.

Prokop said they hope with a new contractor the city will have no increase, and there may be a savings. The bill will no longer be through BJWSA. There will be a franchise fee paid to the city, and the county will do billing. There will be an upgrade to the waste handling system at Waterfront Park. Mayor Keyserling said the costs aren't known yet – this is an estimate. Mr. Prokop said there are tipping fees of \$40-\$45 per dump in Beaufort County, while Jasper County pays \$10 per dump. The debris pickup the city is also doing is making tipping fees even more by the time the budget is final, Mr. Prokop said.

The total request of all of the Public Works divisions is \$5,131,589.

Mike Sutton said this is the first time a department was listed that will maintain infrastructure. He asked about the sanitation contract and the impact of it not being on the water bill. A city resident pays \$16.70 for pick-up, and it hasn't gone up much since they changed the contract last. Not having the water bill on the sanitation bill could be problematic. If you don't pay the water bill, the water is shut off. He asked about the power the sanitation provider has. Mr. Prokop said the billing and collections are totally the responsibility of the provider. They are taking the risk, as they have to do the billing.

Ms. Todd said the problems referred to with BJWSA were about whether they were getting 100% billings or 100% pick-ups. Mr. Sutton said the ability to collect trash could be affected, and depreciation of service could happen. If the bill's not paid, he asked, would the trash not be picked up? Mr. Prokop said they are working to audit all of the contractors on their performance. Councilman Murray asked if the garbage wouldn't be picked up, or if Codes would be sent out. Mr. Prokop said they are working that out. Councilman O'Kelley asked if someone could get a ticket. Mr. Prokop said when they negotiate the contract, they have to ensure that this is covered.

Mr. Sutton said he would like to have seen a side note that showed the revenue side of the equation for each of the overall requests. This would show, for example, the stormwater fee generation that goes to maintenance. Stormwater has a lot of moving parts, he said, and the stormwater fee covers the fees exactly. To get that money, council has to deal with coming up with money that has never been there, or to find any way to generate money for maintenance. Mayor Keyserling said, "Some of that comes from elsewhere." Maintenance on city hall is being done in-house now. Mr. Prokop said that's true. They had discussed this among the department heads today. The fire department would break the costs down as an overview with both revenues and expenses.

Of the city's \$17 million annual budget, Mr. Sutton asked how much is unrestricted; they all know that council can't change most of it, but he believes the public doesn't know how much of that is restricted.

Curbside pick-up will still be mandatory, Mr. Prokop said, by ordinance. He also said that recycling is a big part of the new waste contract.

Alice Howard asked if yard waste could be put in paper sacks instead of plastic, because plastic can't be recycled. Mr. Prokop said that they would put that into the program to educate people about recycling.

Councilman Murray asked about the mast arm match. He said they "look nice," but if they have to cut something from the budget, is it a grant, "a lose it or use it thing"? Mr. Taylor said the arms are part of the agreement and can be done at a minimum cost. Mayor Keyserling asked if they could be delayed if they're only aesthetics. Councilman Murray said assets need to be repaired and maintained, and he asked what could be put off in order to take care of those things. Mayor Keyserling asked if the mast arms are necessary this year. Mr. Taylor said he would have to get back to council about that. Mr. Prokop said there's no contract yet, and they will find out the details.

Councilman Murray asked if there was internal conversation about **David Coleman** serving as the project engineer that Public Works wants. Mr. Prokop said there has been discussion, but he needs a backup for Mr. Taylor, and they need an engineer to come in, hopefully with some stormwater background. Mr. Coleman helps Public Works, but he is too busy with too many things.

Councilman Cromer asked the life of the Hickory Hill landfill. Mr. Prokop said they have had discussions with the county, and the county has spoken to Waste Pro about the \$45 fee, and "it's not very polite." Mayor Keyserling said the county purchased land to build a landfill and discussed going in with Jasper County, but it's not happened yet. Councilman Cromer said that landfill could close. Councilman Murray said the current mound is getting close to its peak, but they can apply for another one. Ms. Howard said that they can build another one, and she would estimate they would need to in 10 years.

Councilman Cromer said if that closes, even with another cell, "siting those places is hard." Mr. Prokop said there's a concern on remote recycling centers because the county would have to spend so much money, and some may have to be closed because the county can't spend hundreds of thousand of dollars. The county gave permission, and it was part of the RFP to use just between the bridge and the airport, and if they want to pick up other trash, they can, under the city contract to pull it off the stream and the remote centers.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Libby Anderson showed the department mission statement, the permanent and consulting staff, the document that guide their work, and a description of their programs and other things the department does such as zoning administration, permit review, UDO amendments, etc. They have monthly neighborhood association

meetings at City Hall and go to the formal groups' meetings with those neighborhoods that have established organizations. She went on to describe the groups with which the department partners.

There are numerous special projects in which the department is involved, LA said, usually at the early stages, such as Duke Street and other streetscapes, form-based code, the day dock, Spanish Moss Trail, work in the Historic District, etc. Grant writing and administration is another aspect of the department's work, such as parks grants, CDBG, DOT and the SC Department of History.

She showed a 5-year look at the planning department's activities, then its FY 2016 budget request with comparisons. Planning's contract services had been contracted out to the fire department, she said, so the Safebuilt contract and mitigation/demolition of two vacant or abandoned buildings money has been taken out. Councilman Murray said codes enforcement has that in their budget now.

The request for professional development is up a little, Ms. Anderson said; staff belongs to a few groups, so these expenses are those memberships, magazines, travel, and 3 hours of training for board members, so they subscribe to a series of webinars. The city gets a ¼ of that back, and it goes into the general fund.

Additionally, Ms. Hill would like to get a risk assessment education for trees; the new code would be in InDesign, so **Julie Bachety** needs that training, and **Lauren Kelly** would like to take 4 units of an exam to be a licensed architect, so those costs are up. Supplies are up \$1,300, because, Ms. Anderson said, "everything we do involves paper and printing." They have inherited a plotter for big maps and need paper for it, which is a new cost. They would like to buy an iPad because the county is doing damage assessment coordination on them. It's done in the field by the EOC. They would like two new office chairs for the front office, and Ms. Bachety would like a desktop scanner. So they are up in a few small items but down in contracting, Ms. Anderson said.

Mayor Keyserling said he's always believed the Civic Master Plan is a terrific document for grants. There are a lot of Homeland Security grants, and it might be worth it, in spite of the "skinny" planning staff, to subscribe to a search service or have someone to look for grants that are out there. Planning has done a great job, he said, but he wonders what, if anything, they might find in the way of opportunities for grants for infrastructure, housing, etc. Ms. Anderson said hazard mitigation is another area that they want to look into. Mayor Keyserling said for 8 years they have tried to work on housing with the Redevelopment Commission, and that money isn't budgeted this year. Boundary Street has "gotten a huge return" and "has huge leverage." Ms. Todd said the city checks the federal grant activity that they would be eligible for, and a committee will be meeting periodically to apply for grants.

Councilman McFee said he concurs with Mayor Keyserling about the grants and the leverage. The city's done such a good job so far with grants, and they can find other ones, such as through Homeland Security.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE, CHRIS MARSH

Frank Napp, president and CEO of the SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce, introduced the people with him who, he said, have been involved in this process.

Chris Marsh, executive director of the Lowcountry Institute, said this is an opportunity to be proactive in an area of active debate. Beaufort/Port Royal Sea-Level Rise Task Force's purpose is to look at solutions to sea level rise in Beaufort and Port Royal. There are many things being discussed. He shared the mission statement of the group.

They wanted to come to council to give information and get input, as well as to show how Beaufort compares to what other places have been doing that have local governments working on sea level rise.

In regard to storm surge vs. sea-level rise, Mr. Marsh said Hurricane Sandy was "a salient example of the impact of rising sea level" when a major storm comes through. He showed local information that is available to monitor sea-level rise. Since 1965, it has risen 6" at Fort Pulaski, GA.

Sea-level rise is a concern for coastal areas, Mr. Marsh said. FEMA says that communities have to plan for climate change and rising sea levels. He said council is talking about long-term commitments and infrastructure. To plan for sea-level rise, they can look at what other communities have been doing in the way of protection (flood gates), accommodation, retreat (e.g., set backs), or no action.

Mr. Marsh showed what has been done in New York, NY, Norfolk, VA, Key West, FL, Wilmington, NC, and Myrtle Beach. Goals proposed for this area are

- Create an information sheet for municipalities, their councils and their citizens to focus people and get their feedback
- Provide information about at-risk locations in the municipalities of Port Royal and Beaufort
- Draw up a list of recommendations about possible actions, including infrastructure planning, and to address current and future impacts
- Provide education to press and community leaders
- Explore sources of funding

Mr. Marsh showed a table of the impact of sea-level rise in percentage for the Town of Port Royal and Beaufort and the numbers of acres that could experience impact based on those levels of sea-level rise. Port Royal is much smaller, but the percentages are similar for it and Beaufort, though the numbers are larger with the inclusion of Parris Island.

The federal government has been working on its contingency plans for that area.

- Can council put this in their long-range plans?
- What actions can council take now?
- How can the committee help council to accomplish these goals?

Mr. Marsh said in the handout, there's a website that has "information about what's going on out there," and that's available for reference. The task force could also come back and answer questions for educational purposes.

Councilman Cromer asked if there was a slosh model for Beaufort County on the website. There are links to multiple models there, **Kate Schafer** said. There's also a tool there with predicted flood changes. Mr. Marsh suggested putting these kinds of issues into grant applications, which will save money in the long term.

Councilman Murray said from 1965 to the current date there's been a 6" change and 6" are predicted in the next 50 years, and then it accelerates pretty quickly. Mr. Marsh said there is so much debate because of the exponential growth and the positive feedback loop. **Kirsten Dow** said that the rate of change is one of the biggest areas of debates – this was the US National Climate Assessment – and "the least reliable element." They are sure it will keep increasing, she said, but it's not yet known how quickly.

Mayor Keyserling said Battery Creek is in **Jack (Neitert's)** back yard already, and a solution would be a gate on the drains that go into the Spanish Moss Trail. Mayor Keyserling said his dock is about 8" higher than it was "not many years ago." He doesn't "like to talk about climate change and global warming," though, because that difference is probably from other people building docks in his area. Mr. Marsh said there's "sediment on top of [Mayor Keyserling's] sediment" now.

Mr. Marsh said that when money is put into infrastructure, "you assume it will last awhile," so council should "consider that this is happening," and use that knowledge to determine where the city is putting money into infrastructure and how it will respond to the sea-level rise.

Mr. Prokop asked how they could add rising sea levels as a consideration in the city's planning. That data could be used in the Public Works and Planning departments when they have projects that that sort of funding could apply to. Mr. Neitert said that they had had a very helpful meeting with Mr. Taylor.

Councilman Murray said because of fossil fuels, sea-level rise is occurring and he asked if it wouldn't be easier to adjust energy use than it is to build a sea wall around the Historic District. Mr. Marsh told him that was a good point, and they have had those conversations, but they are trying to engage people in action that can

be taken *now*, which is why they have that educational component – to get people to acknowledge that sea-level rise is real – and then they will educate them about what can be done. Even if they start today, though, “some inertia is built in,” Mr. Marsh said.

Mayor Keyserling said the difference between surge and sea level rise was what was most interesting to him because sea-level rise will compound storm surge. He said he had asked traffic engineers if they were considering this in their long-term planning – Could new roads be flooded? Would more people need to be evacuated? And “it went totally over their heads,” Mayor Keyserling said.

Mr. Marsh said the committee is interested in working with staff to do mutual education and to do the same with council members, so as this comes up, everyone will have as much information as they desire to have.

Mayor Keyserling said the new way-finding signs that Main Street Beaufort got are “totally inadequate,” according to the parking committee; however, Main Street Beaufort said they needed to put them up soon to use the money they’d received. The report that is coming out would have recommended “aggressive signs,” he said: “That is parallel to this issue” of sea-level rise.

Councilman Murray said that in the planning charettes, Mayor Keyserling would say that no one was interested in something until it affected their house, and he thinks this matter is similar. When you show a map that shows the Historic District, downtown, and Fripp Island inundated with water, he said, it “will make the connection from a global to a local level,” so he recommended showing this data to local civic groups. Mr. Marsh asked if they would like council to come make that presentation. Mr. Prokop said he thought this would be an excellent presentation for the neighborhood association groups. Mr. Marsh said they could list the areas that are “hotspots that might generate debate.” Mayor Keyserling said he had gone to Historic Beaufort Foundation three times and told them that they should be interested in this; he asked them if they would allow mass and scale changes as this happens. Their Preservation Committee might be a good target as well, the mayor suggested.

Mr. Sutton said this is “far in the future,” and “no one can control it.” He feels as if “what’s missing is sedimentation rates”; there’s no dredging or maintenance where there once was; the sea walls in Beaufort haven’t been maintained or rebuilt. “The edge of the river has changed,” Mr. Sutton said, and the river could change its course if there’s sea-level rise. This will always be a waterfront community, and they need “to be a better job done on the waterfront.” Mr. Napp said Charleston was close to getting a sea-level rise task force started, but they decided they would work with the National Academy of Science program. However, Charleston is putting together an internal planners’ group to look at sea-level rise. They have a worse situation than Beaufort/Port Royal and will lose a lot more even with a minimal rise. There are

things they can do, he said, just like this community, to be more resilient to sea-level rise and storm surge.

Ms. Dow said the federal government is interested in supporting pilot projects. Both the EPA and FEMA are looking for projects in communities that are willing to step up now.

WASHINGTON STREET BATHROOMS ACCOUNT

Mayor Keyserling said Bridges had accepted his challenge to raise money to help pay for Washington Street Park bathrooms. The city can't accept what was raised, though, because it has no account to put it into. He said council needs to make sure it's OK for Ms. Todd to create a separate, restricted account.

Councilman Cromer said they could get a civic or other group to call itself Friends of the Waterfront Park and donate plantings to the park. He feels a lot of people would be willing to do that, including himself.

Mayor Keyserling asked if there's a problem with creating this kind of "trust fund," which, Ms. Todd added, is new and protected for donations for an asset the city doesn't own, but the city would hold the money. It's known that the city won't sign a lease; a 50-year lease doesn't qualify, she said. The only way to raise funds for the park is if the city has a deed, Mayor Keyserling said; the city attorney's working with the organization that owns the park, so if the city should choose to do so, the park will go back to that organization. Councilman McFee said all the equipment that is there was put in by the city. Mayor Keyserling said they have been maintaining it, and the public thinks it's a city-owned park. Councilman Cromer raised concerns about someone getting hurt on the playground equipment.

There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.