

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on December 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Council members Donnie Ann Beer, Gary B. Fordham, Mike Sutton, 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.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was led by Councilwoman Beer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the mayor.

Municipal Judge Ned Tupper swore in Councilwoman Beer and Councilman Sutton to their recently re-elected positions on council.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Charles Aimar** presented signatures from property and business owners on Bay Street concerned with the parking situation. He said they were asking city council to “hold off on making a quick attempt at a solution we think needs some time.” He reminded city council that the country is in the third year of a recession and feels the council should not make things more difficult for those businesses that haven’t closed yet, lest Beaufort “become a ghost town.” He feels high fees for parking will drive locals away from downtown, and those locals will do business where they don’t have to pay for parking or fines. The signatories want a fee moratorium for 6 months and to not spend any money to put in new meters. The “overwhelming majority” of Bay Street merchants, he said, favor 3 hours of free parking on a variety of streets around Bay and on Bay Street itself. He feels this will keep employees from parking downtown and allow time for customers to eat and shop.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting November 9, 2010 were presented to council for review. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

The minutes of the regular meeting November 23, 2010 were presented to council for review. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

The minutes of the work session November 30, 2010 were presented to council for review. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, council voted unanimously to

approve the minutes as written. Councilman McFee abstained from voting because he was not present at the work session.

The minutes of the work session December 7, 2010 were presented to council for review. Councilman McFee pointed out that on page 11 of the minutes, the correct statement is: "Mr. Phillips said this is Lanier's only location where they do NOT do pay-by-display." On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

**UDO AMENDMENT ADDING A NEW SECTION 4.6 "MIXED USE DISTRICTS," AND A NEW SECTION 6.10, "BLADEN STREET REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT"**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, made a motion to adopt the amendment on first reading. **Libby Anderson** said there was a workshop on the ordinance, and they and some property owners discussed about a dozen changes they would like, e.g., the widths of front porches.

Councilman Sutton referred to the process for applicants appealing a decision. On page 3, Ms. Anderson said, it is currently written. If it needs to be changed this would be the time to do it. She said the ZBOA is the next step for an appeal before a courtroom. If an applicant applied to work within those redevelopment zones and couldn't agree with the city architect, they would appeal to HDRB. Councilman Sutton said appeals beyond DRB go to circuit court, and he asked if the HDRB also did. Ms. Anderson said that's to be assumed, but that could be clarified with the attorney. Ms. Anderson said that's in the state law, and they have no discretion in that area. Councilman Sutton said it needs to be clear and precise. Ms. Anderson said that was the idea of the city architect. Currently it is written as HDRB. Councilman Sutton asked for a formal opinion from the city attorney on the sequence of events for appeals. He asked if there have been appeals from the HDRB to the circuit court, and Ms. Anderson said yes, a few have.

Councilman Sutton said a zoning issue is clearly prescribed by the form-based code, which should be uncomplicated, so therefore it's a zoning issue. He feels it should be so precise that there should be no difference of opinion and it doesn't go to court or a board that has its roots in different issues.

Ms. Anderson said there is also the option of a variance if the applicant can't meet the standard. The appeal process is for disagreements. Ms. Anderson said this is a part of the UDO, so the same standards would apply, as would the variants. Ms. Anderson said the administrative adjustment is tied to a specific standard in the ordinance. The intent of the code is to allow flexibility to the city architect and the developer to develop plans appropriate to the area. Anywhere it says "should," there is very generous room for discussion. Councilman Sutton asked if they would have a chance to ask questions about the sequence of appeal before the second reading to avoid arbitration anywhere. They want clear, precise rules that work.

Ms. Anderson said the questions seem to be about the HDRB appeal process and the amount of discretion the city architect has. Ms. Anderson said that going to the HDRB was the city architect's suggestion, but going to the Planning Commission or another board instead is a policy decision city council can make.

Mayor Keyserling stressed that state and federal money earned competitively is being spent, not parking fees, for this project.

**Reed Armstrong**, Coastal Conservation League, expressed his support for the Bladen Street Redevelopment Plan.

Councilman Sutton asked **Steve Tully** to come forward. Councilman Sutton said the building width is a minimum of 60% of the lot; he asked if a pitched roof of the size that's prescribed is realistic. Mr. Tully said it doesn't matter where the appeal goes as long as the city architect has flexibility. Councilman Sutton asked him, if there was a conflict, the regulation part would be more difficult to follow than the architecture. He said if it's a hardship, he wants to know which board it's going to go to. Mr. Tully said he'd rather see it go to council, personally. Councilman Sutton asked Ms. Anderson to include council as one of the options to which it could go. He said he wants to make sure it's done right.

There was a brief discussion about roof pitches and porch size. Mr. Tully discussed the differences between "should" and "shall" and the ability to build in flexibility for the architect. Ms. Anderson said in reference to flexibility, on page 2 it says that the city architect has the authority to make exceptions within the code on the basis of architectural merit. "Shall" is locked in, but "should" offers flexibility. There are recommendations as to what is being striven for. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE REZONING 14 PARCELS OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE BLADEN STREET AREA TO BLADEN STREET REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**ORDINANCE REZONING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLADEN AND PRINCE STREETS, FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading. Ms. Anderson clarified that this property is within the Bladen Street Redevelopment District, so this could be null and void, as Bladen Street supersedes this rezoning. Councilman McFee clarified that this parcel was left off the original. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, made a motion to adopt the budget on first reading. Ms. Hughes said council has had two work sessions on the purchase of these

vehicles and has approved them at both sessions with instructions for staff to go forward. She reiterated the specific equipment being requested. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**AMENDING TITLE 8 CHAPTER 2, OF THE PARKING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PARKING TIME LIMITATIONS AND RATES WITHIN THE CITY**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, made a motion to adopt the amendment on first reading. Mr. Dadson showed a map of the area under consideration and the various time limits in each area ranging from 0-4 hours. He also showed a map designating the various districts for fees per hour ranging from \$.50 - \$1.00.

Mayor Keyserling said that for as long as he can remember, the principle parking issue was driven by the desire to have parking turnover to increase the ability of customers to park easily, rather than those who work downtown and their employees. A year ago, city council made a decision that it was best to ensure turnover by coming up with some new ways of managing parking. He asked if the mission still was to generate turnover so customers can have access to parking. He said that has been the principle purpose for parking historically, and the recommendations and studies have been toward that end: to get people downtown to the Bay Street area to shop and eat.

Councilwoman Beer said there have been many meetings and work sessions. City council and Lanier have worked hard and made a commitment. It's a financial matter for Main Street Beaufort and the Redevelopment Commission to help bring more people to live and work downtown. It was not started to work everywhere in Beaufort but to revitalize the whole core and bring infill development which will bring more business downtown. She supports the changes.

Councilman McFee said he appreciates the businesses on Bay Street and their struggles in the current economy. He's worked on studies at the Chamber and on Main Street Beaufort. There is no such thing as free parking, he has learned. Free parking will not support effective turnover. City council has done a lot of review and analysis along with the surveys of the businesses and neighbors. He supports what's being worked on with time and cost adjustments, and more work needs to be done between first and second readings, but to grind this to halt would create more confusion between now and January.

Councilman Sutton said as far as the time limits, he's in full agreement. As far as rates, he questions the Marina lot being a one-hour rate. Regardless of the merchants' petition, the process needs to be moved to some degree.

The Marina lot has the greatest number of spaces and should be a lower rate, which will send more economically-scaled parking there. Tourists will park wherever they are told to park. Locals will have an option to park in the Marina, and it could be more economical than on Bay Street and its 76 spaces, where the need for turnover has been the greatest.

He added that there are all business owners on the petition Mr. Aimar presented, and this is the first time he's seen solidarity among merchants in more than a decade. He asked "where the hell were you for all these months?" and why merchants on the petition were not filling the council chambers for this meeting. A few of them were present. He discussed an editorial in that day's paper. He said city council knows there's a problem, and they're trying to fix it, but they won't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Council has to make the decisions.

**Tony Royal**, Bay Street Outfitters, said in these poor economic times, he expected by now to see more of an improvement in shopping and spending than he has seen. He thinks this recommendation gives the opportunity to spend a little more time looking at the ideas seen tonight. And it is also a signal to people to come downtown to shop. Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Royal if he believes that in December, the spaces are being used by employees. Mr. Royal said he has spoken to two abusers who have committed to trying harder to get their employees to park elsewhere. He said their concerns seem to be more of a legal issue; they are concerned about being held responsible if something were to happen to an employee. He's "getting good feedback from the violators." Mr. Royal said free parking does lead to abuse, but he will accept a little bit of that in order to keep his business open.

Mayor Keyserling said there was a pilot program of free parking on Bay Street, and it didn't work. The abusers found ways to work around the system. Mr. Royal said merchants desire turnover. What they propose is not a long-term solution but is meant to allow more time to study. Mayor Keyserling asked if Councilman Sutton's idea and graduated fees were satisfactory to him. Mr. Royal said yes, and they could fit 30-40 more spaces in the Marina lot.

**Alice Wallace** of Lanier / Park Beaufort said that during the December free parking to this point, more than 200 tickets have been written. Some were for things like parking in handicapped spaces, but 184 tickets were just for parking in excess of the 2-hour limits or for not paying at all. The month before, the number of tickets was 110.

Councilman McFee said there's some confusion because some people thought all the meters were bagged/free, even when they weren't, so they parked in un-bagged meters and expected it to be free, so that number is skewed. Mayor Keyserling said he's curious as to whether that will yield interesting results as to people abusing it more when it's free than when it has to be paid.

Mr. Aimar reiterated that the kiosks were not good for Beaufort, and maybe the parking committee can study other cities that have free parking. Mayor Keyserling said he hears that merchants are struggling, but the turnover is better in the last 2-3 months than it has ever been. It's easier to find a space; there are more people coming and going. He feels like turnover is better and businesses fail for various reasons. The recession is hitting Beaufort more now than it did other places, which it hit sooner. He thinks council needs to understand that there is better, more consistent enforcement. People used to be able to park most of the day and get a \$3 fine. If more turnover is being achieved – which it is - he's nervous about pointing a finger at

the parking system for business failure rather than believing it's the economy. For the first time in 20 years, the system has achieved turnover. Incentives to park off of Bay Street will increase turnover further, which is always the driving factor in these discussions.

Mr. Aimar said the two issues were the kiosks, which can be difficult to use for some people, and the increase of the fine. "Those two things hit in a down economy," and as the businesses went into a heightened season, there was concern about getting less business. Mayor Keyserling asked if Mr. Aimar has considered lowering rents. Mr. Aimar said Bank of America won't lower their rates. Mayor Keyserling said he's had to drop rents 30% to keep tenants. Mr. Aimar said the shoppers have told realtors they don't like the kiosks, and they need more than 3 hours to eat and shop on Bay Street. They have proposed 3 hours of free parking if it's strictly enforced. They want to slow down and see that it's done the best way.

Councilman Fordham said for years and years, the problem has been studied, and it seems like the time now is to stick to their guns and do something. His father had a retail business for 56 years, and he wants to be sympathetic to the retailers, but he thinks city council needs to take a stand. They keep biting the bullet, and he has a problem with changing the system again that's only been in effect for a relatively short period of time. He thinks trying it for another 6 months is a good idea. He's sympathetic to the downtown business owners and understands that they drive a lot of the Beaufort economy. He said he's going to vote against changing the hours. He's going to support what the city manager has proposed.

Councilwoman Beer referred to the restaurants and said how much better they are since 1970. Those who are concerned about employee safety don't have any costs to park on Bay Street if they come to work at 5 pm; they pay \$1 and then they're not enforced, so she feels that argument doesn't hold too much water. The day shift servers have daylight until they get off work, so they're in less danger walking to their cars with cash. She feels those are excuses for letting employees park on Bay for work hours and don't hold much water. The restaurants have been the problem, she's been told.

Mr. Aimar said Lantz Price said he'd support whatever the business owners want on Bay because lunch business depends on retailers. His employees are parking on Bay less because of the \$10 fine which would have to stay in place if council were to allow 3 hours of free parking. Councilwoman Beer said she's sympathetic, too, and would love to see Bay Street as it once was: with places to live, grocery stores, etc., and city council is working toward that. Parking is not a money-maker in the long run, and what's coming in goes to Lanier, Main Street Beaufort and the Redevelopment Commission, which should be a big factor in revitalizing the downtown area. Mr. Aimar said there's concern about the Lanier contract; he's heard they get \$17,000 a month at a minimum, which is a great concern.

Mayor Keyserling asked what more data is needed. Lanier knows "incredible things" he never knew about occupancy rates, etc. He wants to know what the questions are and wonders if they can get them answered in an effort to get a unified downtown voice. He would be happy

to sit with staff, Lanier, and downtown merchants to try to get these questions answered. There is a lot of data, such as how long people stay at Publix, how often they go there instead of downtown, etc. He understands the awkwardness of kiosks, but the data is so helpful to Main Street Beaufort and merchants in terms of organizing the marketing.

Mr. Royal said his most significant customers who shop downtown often come downtown because they love it. They are the most vocal about the new system. The data he can provide is his cash register. Mayor Keyserling asked if he feels that marketing paid for by Main Street Beaufort with \$8000 that came from parking should that be stopped.

Mr. Royal responded that according to the city's web site, the Redevelopment Commission was what was considered when establishing the new parking system; downtown businesses weren't considered. Mayor Keyserling said, in reality, out of these dollars, \$8000 was spent to market downtown Beaufort. **Lanelle Fabian** said they haven't received that much money from parking.

**Edward Dukes** asked Ms. Fabian how much Main Street Beaufort *has* received from parking, and Ms. Fabian said \$7000 since they signed the contract. Mr. Dukes said the Redevelopment Commission will be funding work other than on Bay Street. There's concern by Bay Street merchants that the parking money won't be spent on Bay itself. Mayor Keyserling said all the money collected in various ways is *subsidized* by people who live elsewhere than on Bay Street, i.e., Mossy Oaks, North Street, etc. It's a small city with mostly moderate- to low-income earners. This is not happening "on the back of Bay Street except to the extent that Bay Street is on the back of all of Beaufort," which they want it to be, but there has to be balance.

Mr. Dukes said they need to be sure that they don't run off the locals. Everyone needs to be welcome downtown, and there need to be stores down there that will support those locals. Mayor Keyserling said everyone wants the same thing. Turnover is being achieved, and that's been the consistent issue. Downtown needs to work and Bay is its anchor. Redevelopment Commission money is designated for downtown. He's heard too many times that the Northwest Quadrant is being funded by Bay Street. The whole redevelopment district is being funded by the Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Dukes said the concern is that the timing of this in a recession makes it doubly difficult.

Mr. Aimar said as a property owner and business owner, he was never contacted by the city in these decisions. He asked, if the Redevelopment Commission is involved with the funding that comes with parking in downtown Beaufort, are downtown Beaufort property owners on the Redevelopment Commission? Mayor Keyserling said no Bay Street merchants are on it. Councilman Sutton said no one applied from that area to serve on the commission.

Councilman Sutton said Mr. Aimar can come every Tuesday to meetings of the council. He said Mr. Aimar has said several times that Redevelopment Commission is "doing something with the parking money." There's been no development on Port Republic Street. He wondered if Mr. Aimar would be concerned if the Redevelopment Commission was working in *that* area with

their money. Mr. Aimar said they might be. They have learned, and their “customers have spoken.” Councilman Sutton said they have to get the facts straight to avoid confusion and frustration. To get the facts, they need to participate.

Mr. Aimar reiterated that the petition group is the largest group of merchants Councilman Sutton said he has seen, and Councilman Sutton said council also has Main Street Beaufort, which is the voice of the merchants to council. Mayor Keyserling said Main Street Beaufort was the first group ever consulted. Councilman Sutton asked again where those on the petition were all this time. There were 15-20 meetings on parking before anything was done. Councilman Sutton said the value of the petition is that the merchants are talking in downtown. He said there’s no doubt that kiosks aren’t popular. Mr. Aimar said as far as the Bay Street merchants “are concerned, the kiosks are gone.”

Councilman Sutton said there are 60 viable businesses on the petition; some of the issues need to be discussed. He said city council is making decisions based on the facts. He went on to consider various issues around free parking.

**Randall Burch** said Main Street Beaufort doesn’t have anything to add. Ms. Wallace said there were over 61,000 transactions at the pay stations in November, and more than 73% of those used dollar bills or credit and debit cards, which meters would not accept, and “that is a lot to think about.”

Mr. Burch said “that’s a big number” but he has nothing to compare it to, “so it doesn’t matter.” Mayor Keyserling said if they stop using kiosks now, they won’t have data. Mr. Burch said the data they have “doesn’t paint a true picture.” Mayor Keyserling said it’s a true picture, but they don’t have enough data to have perspective.

**Nan Sutton**, 809 Craven Street, said she’s been to all the meetings, and the city was sold a system that just didn’t work. The system was about the numbers and what could be achieved. They achieved turnover, but they have made it a more unfriendly downtown. Numbers apart from the amount of turnover, such as the number of transactions, are not important, she feels. She has a lot of traffic in her store, and the number of complaints has tripled from when there were meters.

She sees employees parking on Bay Street “all the time.” Her customers have told her the difficulty with the kiosks, and that they feel they should be gotten rid of. The “old meters should be put in right now,” and they should still talk about free parking. She thinks that there are other options. With free parking, they won’t have the money to hire the person to chalk the tires. She thinks the merchants have to be proactive by attending the meetings of city council. Unless it’s a very heated item, no one will show up; the merchants are apathetic and have come too late to the discussion. She appreciates the work the city is doing and thinks lowering the rates will help with some employees. She feels they should now get the kiosks off Bay and make

the Marina lot free parking. All the employees could go there, plus there should be 3-hour parking on Bay.

**Don Starkey** said he supports the downtown merchants. He appreciates city council taking this matter up. He doesn't mind the kiosks in the lots. He has had to stand in line at the kiosks. He's concerned about their ability to work in high humidity. Hearing what the merchants said about the lack of traffic: if there are fewer people shopping, there are more open spaces, and that might account for better turnover. He believes people don't come to the city because the rates are higher and the kiosks take longer to work. If the rates are reduced and the kiosks are gone, the word needs to be gotten out to surrounding communities. He thinks the free meters would be a good idea, though maybe not for 6 months.

Councilman Sutton referred back to the two items under consideration: time limits and rates. He said he'd like an amendment to the Marina lot rate to be \$.50 or free, not \$.75. He asked city council if the Marina is the appropriate place to pull longer users off of Bay Street. Mayor Keyserling said the purpose is to create incentives to *not park long-term on Bay*, and he said Councilman Sutton had suggested that the Marina would provide that incentive. Councilman Sutton said "that's our parking lot for lack of having one." Mayor Keyserling asked if there was discounted employee parking in the Marina. Ms. Wallace said there is discounted *monthly* parking there. She said there are 11 parkers who are 8 hour parkers. Councilman McFee asked the occupancy rate on the Marina lot. Ms. Wallace estimated 75% in the summer, maybe more.

Councilman Sutton wondered if his proposed amendment would be enough incentive to the locals and employees. Mayor Keyserling said they need to hear from someone downtown. **Robert Bowden** said the Marina lot, if it were designated as extended term parking, and there were an extended scale for the number of hours parked in it, there shouldn't be a set hourly rate but a sliding scale.

Councilwoman Beer asked the discount for the 8-hour parkers. Ms. Wallace said a monthly pass is \$35. Mr. Burch said a hang tag is not specific to the Marina and can be used at any 8 hour meter. 63 monthly parking passes are currently issued, Ms. Wallace said. Councilman Sutton said he likes the idea of a sliding scale and would like more research done on it. By second reading, he'd like to know what the incentive is to park long-term in the biggest lot the city owns. The motion doesn't need to be changed on first reading, so he's not changing it, but he wants more information.

Councilman Sutton said they have briefly discussed merchants' tokens to offer incentives to their customers to get them to come back despite parking fees. He wondered why merchants don't already have something in place. Such a thing would be among the investments a business can make to get their customers back themselves. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **REVISED AGREEMENT FOR ON-STREET PARKING FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Sutton, made a motion to revise the agreement. Mr. Dadson said the Redevelopment Commission has rights and has agreed to turn them back over to the city. The revised agreement still maintains the relationship with Main Street Beaufort but takes the Redevelopment Commission out of the management agreement. Council has always controlled the budget for the Redevelopment Commission, and parking is only one part; there are also certain TIFs and block grants. They come in from outside, and city council turned those over to Redevelopment Commission as an action of council; nothing has been done *carte blanche*.

Councilman Sutton said Main Street Beaufort will continue to report to council. Mr. Dadson said this just removes Redevelopment Commission from their management responsibility. Councilman Sutton asked what step, once this is done, the city council has in terms of equipment changes. Mr. Dadson said as far as modifying equipment, city council would put a motion on the table. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Councilman Sutton made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, that the kiosks be removed during the bagged season, relocated in the flat lots, and replaced with the infrastructure for the meters.

Mayor Keyserling said this was among Lanier's recommendations. Councilman Sutton said their report is based on about 70 survey responses with many questions on them. Councilman McFee said he sees both sides, and there's not much question that kiosks are not working on Bay Street. From the goodwill standpoint, it's a good step, and he's comfortable with it for a first reading. Councilman Sutton said his motion is to put the old stock back up, not to get new meters. Others may be phased in in the future. Mr. Dadson clarified that *this is a motion and not a first or second reading*. Mayor Keyserling clarified about the reconditioned meters. Mr. Dadson said it's an either/or recommendation. Either the kiosk numbers can be increased, or the existing kiosks can be moved to other places in the current parking system and be replaced with new meters. There are enough in stock to do that, **Brent Phillips** said.

Mr. Dadson said in either recommendation, they would be spending money. Mr. Dadson's recommendation is to do the rate and time changes for now and not take money from the system to spend on that. He thinks there hasn't been enough time to test the technology. He hasn't read the survey, but the money has been invested to date, and a 6-month trial is not sufficient. Adjusting rates and times is the reasonable approach, and he thinks the incentive of the Marina lot is viable. The maximum number of transactions is 17,655 per month. Those are the total number of parking spaces available. The turnover is 2 or 3 to 1. People are parking downtown, but whether they're spending money once they park, he doesn't know. The number of turnovers, however, is trending toward what city council recommended.

Ms. Fabian said there are other recommendations in Lanier's recommendation that Main Street Beaufort would not support. Councilman Sutton said all they're considering is moving the kiosks

off Bay and over to the Marina. To replace the kiosks, they would put up poles to create future infrastructure. These two items are the only ones in his motion.

Mr. Burch said logistically, the proposal to move the kiosks to the Marina allows the opportunity to make any slot extended parking-viable, but investing capital to put poles on the street could logistically be a nightmare as could people getting the money to pay the meters when they're back. Before rushing into it, he recommends taking 30 more days and investigating what type of meter technologies are available before they choose to do something that may not work.

Mr. Dadson said to add additional pay stations will cost \$78,000, and to move them to flat lots and have double-headed meters in their place will cost \$34,200. Councilwoman Beer clarified that these meters are the kind that just take quarters. Mr. Burch said a third option is 40 hours of labor to replace the kiosks with the meters they have in stock. He said there are enough meters to put in to replace the kiosks. Councilman Sutton added "plus 37 pipes."

Mayor Keyserling said he wouldn't vote for it, though he supports the option of going back to meters. He's hearing too many things, including a moratorium on paid parking and three options he doesn't fully understand. He wants to pursue the spirit of it, though. Councilwoman Beer said she doesn't want to rush into anything and find they've made another mistake. She wants to take more time. Councilman Sutton said he doesn't know what more data they need. He wants to have merchants fill the room before he supports free parking. He wants the kiosks gone. Mr. Royal said five people worked for three days to get 88 signatures, which he said is "pretty good turnout." He stated again that "we are in a recession." He said this is a short-term request for six months to get customers back on Bay.

Mayor Keyserling wants a merchants' meeting in the next weeks. He doesn't feel they should do anything yet. **The motion failed 3-2**, with Councilwoman Beer, Councilman Fordham, and Mayor Keyserling voting against it, and Councilman McFee and Councilman Sutton in favor of it.

#### **STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM SCOTT TO CARTERET STREETS FOR THE BEAUFORT FILM SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman McFee, made a motion to approve the request. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Beer, to appoint Cheryl Neison and Heather Winch to TMAC. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Maryann Norton and Jeff Thomas have been interviewed for positions on HDRB but a vote on appointment was tabled.

Councilman Fordham made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee to elect Councilwoman Beer as Mayor Pro Tempore. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilman McFee reported that the Beaufort 300 fundraising effort is ongoing. The tricentennial kick-off will be December 31 and will include a historical and musical evening, produced by Marlena Smalls, ending with fireworks.

Councilwoman Beer wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and BF said Happy Hanukkah.

Councilman Fordham requested that the posts be removed in the city park on the south side of Boundary Street across from the Holiday Inn. He said “the park is the most unfriendly park; it looks like a fortress.” He feels taking the posts down would encourage people to go into it. Mr. Dadson asked if he meant the park by Wendy’s and asked if people are prevented from going in. Mr. Dadson said he’d look into being able to access the park more easily.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman Fordham, council voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 70(a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws for discussion of a personnel matter. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman McFee, made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular council meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before City Council, Councilwoman Beer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman McFee. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK