

A work session meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on July 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 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.

CALL TO ORDER

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS: METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION (MPO)

Mr. Dadson said as a result of the census. Beaufort qualifies for MPO status, which is money that flows into metropolitan statistical areas.

Libby Anderson said a portion of Southern Beaufort County was designated as an urbanized area, so they must establish a metropolitan planning organization related to transportation specifically. They develop plans and implement projects in their area of concern. The money comes directly from the federal government, then through the state. They get project development money and money for administration. The boundaries for the Beaufort County MPO have been proposed to be the urbanized areas, which is Hilton Head Island and portions of Southern Beaufort County. The planning area can be enlarged to include Beaufort, Port Royal, Hardeeville and portions of Jasper County. These are expected to be urbanized areas within the next 20 years.

Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) is proposed to be the MPO administrator because they already do transportation planning; they will continue to receive funding for rural transportation projects. Mr. Dadson said Beaufort County and Hilton Head Island were alternatives considered for administration. Each municipality's mayor, representatives of Jasper County and Beaufort County Councils, 2 legislative delegates, LRTA Executive Director, and the SCDOT commissioner will all have delegates on the policy board. There is still discussion about who would serve on the technical committee.

Ms. Anderson reviewed the next steps in the process. Mr. Dadson said the total amounts and costs of all the projects are \$300 million plus, and the annual funding is proposed to be \$2.4 million to deal with transportation issues.

Mayor Keyserling asked if this changes the impact from infrastructure bank dollars. Mr. Dadson said it gives a leg up, especially from a federal dollar perspective. He thinks it's "best to be in the ballgame." \$2.4 million comes from a formula based on population. Mr. Dadson said some areas have increased and others decreased in population; the state is dividing up the pie. Ms. Anderson said it's considered a good thing to have reached this stage in that it's not necessary

to compete for these funds; Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and the county have all agreed that they should use this regionally. Mr. Dadson said staff worked hard at suggesting how to staff and govern this. Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Port Royal, Beaufort and Hardeeville all think it would be a good thing to work on together with a regional approach

Mr. Dadson said it's unknown if the governor will sign off on it, but collaborating like this will be appreciated at the state level. Mayor Keyserling said the school board had requested that they be the governing body. Ms. Anderson said they might be a technical committee representative. Mr. Dadson said LCOG will be the lead agency, not "running" it. Mr. Dadson said that they have requested that this be new staff with a more metropolitan focus. Ms. Anderson said this policy board may replace BTAG. Mr. Dadson said the county has to figure out the roles of all this, but he, too, expects that it will replace BTAG.

Ms. Anderson said a lot of road projects have already been done in the last 10 years, so this money may go farther than it would appear to. Mr. Dadson said intersections which are gateways into the towns need to be considered. Mayor Keyserling asked if there was a reason that Yemassee is not included; Mr. Dadson said they're in the rural grouping and aren't expected to be urbanized in the next 20 years.

Mayor Keyserling asked if there's any downside to this, and Mr. Dadson said "they're regional." Councilman McFee said they're a small fish in a big pond. Ms. Anderson said the parts of Lady's Island in the growth area are included, but not the northern part of the county such as Sheldon. Mr. Dadson said they will stay with the census tract information, and they would have to wait 10 years for the next census to get the 2000 more Beaufort needs.

Mayor Keyserling said if it replaces BTAG, it makes it "a smaller, more refined group." Councilman O'Kelley said projects on the rural roads to the north and east of this metropolitan area could have an impact on the City of Beaufort, which might get the benefit of some of that. Mayor Keyserling said, as a practical matter, Beaufort County might be able to save on their transportation. Mayor Keyserling asked if this group would have been the partner, and Mr. Dadson said yes, if they didn't have the penny sales tax. Councilman McFee said it's a better implementation group for a penny sales tax. Mayor Keyserling said the county lines are sharper today than they were six months ago. Mr. Dadson said Jasper County has been invited, and the county and city manager have been to the meetings, but he doesn't know where they are with it.

Councilman O'Kelley said he'd been in Maine and had visited towns that were like Beaufort and two had farmer's markets that were similar to the one in downtown Beaufort. They all had little shops and, he emphasized, NO parking meters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman McFee, council voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 70(a) (2) of the South Carolina

Code of Laws regarding contractual matters and receipt of legal advice. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman Sutton, made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the work session. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on July 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Council members Donnie Ann Beer, George O'Kelley, 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 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOAN SEDLACEK FOR HER TIME ON THE ZBOA

Councilwoman Beer made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Councilman McFee. The motion passed unanimously. Councilwoman Beer read the resolution and Mayor Keyserling presented Ms. Sedlacek with the resolution.

Councilwoman Beer announced that there were visitors present from Beaufort, Australia. She presented the Pitts' with a key to the city. They made a brief statement.

MINUTES

The minutes of the work session on June 19, 2012 were presented to council for review. **Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

The minutes of the work session and regular meeting on June 26, 2012 were presented to council for review. Councilman McFee noted that on page 3 of the minutes, the figure in the sentence "In South Carolina, the total was \$13,666 in FY2013, Jayson Gardner said ..." was a reference to numbers of jobs, not a dollar figure. **Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 5, CHAPTER 1, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO LOUD AND UNSEEMLY NOISE

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance amendment on second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2013 BUDGET AMENDMENT, STORMWATER FEES

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Kelley to approve the budget amendment on first reading. Kathy Todd said the amendment will increase stormwater department revenues by raising the fee from \$65 to \$105 and increasing the capital acquisitions

by the same amount, including the street sweeper. There had been discussions about the stormwater fee and the budget shortfall, which was originally \$263,546.77, which included the street sweeper. When the budget was adopted, there was still a shortfall in the stormwater department of \$108,000. Losses represent those expenditures that are dedicated to stormwater and exceed the fees generated. They are subsidized by the General Fund for operational needs. \$608,000 is in the budget that has been approved. There will be substantial stormwater projects in the future, Ms. Todd said, and some have been on hold because of not having sufficient revenues to do them.

Ms. Todd went on to explain the amount of the increase with the fees. The shortfall would be eliminated, she said, and would provide the city with the ability to purchase the street sweeper and give \$139,000 in revenue to increase stormwater projects that have been on hold or place the money in reserve. The fees are only for stormwater needs. Mayor Keyserling said shortfalls and surpluses are segregated accounts, and if this isn't done, they will take from fund balance. Councilman McFee said the shortfalls would come from the General Fund. Ms. Todd agreed. Councilman McFee said they have been subsidizing it. Mayor Keyserling asked if this would keep them from needing to take General Fund dollars to subsidize stormwater, and Ms. Todd said yes, or needing to dip into fund balance.

Isaiah Smalls explained supplementing by the General Fund for labor and said they are trying to make a clean cut. Mr. Smalls said grant funds have been used as well for several projects. They applied for a grant for Higginsonville but couldn't match the funds. **Andy Kinghorn** said his initial concern about raising the fee is that it not cause a tax increase. He said Ms. Todd had explained it, and he is now fully supportive of the rise. He said there are major capital expenses coming up in the next couple of years. Ms. Todd said they could do a capital lease on the street sweeper, and that would increase the amount of money for other needs. The \$108,000 without the street sweeper plus a capital lease would be \$101,000.

Mr. Dadson called this "the expense of living in the Lowcountry and in an urban place in the Lowcountry." He said Public Works knows where their issues are. Mayor Keyserling said the money is never going to come from the state. Mayor Keyserling said if they do this they will need to be cautious of the reserve because they won't want to raise it again in the next two years. Mr. Dadson said "the fees are 65-70% of billable." Not-for-profits don't pay into the system. Councilman McFee said the numbers are based on collection.

Mr. Dadson said the MCAS maintains its own system. There was a conversation about the county's numbers in relation to stormwater. Councilman Sutton said if the city does nothing, "the county will increase its fees and will make more money without doing more work." Ms. Todd said the new intergovernmental agreement will be signed before September, hopefully. The county will get the same amount of revenue from the city, Mr. Kinghorn said, whether it's increased or not. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee to appoint Theresa Bennett to the Beaufort Housing Authority. Ms. Bennett will be representing Hilton Head on the board and was recommended by Hilton Head Island. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee to reappoint Eric Brown to the DRB. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling said he met with Jeff Evans from TDAC and Blakely Williams, and they will have a new TDAC plan for a workshop in a few weeks that will be a different set of metrics and accountability.

Mayor Keyserling said there will be a Commerce Park meeting on the same day as the public meeting about the Boundary Street master plan. Stephen Murray has gathered displays of area manufacturing businesses.

Mayor Keyserling said he had met with Col. Murtha, and there are not yet any sequestration effects.

Water Festival begins this week.

REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilwoman Beer said Plums is having a special benefit dinner to help vets with severe injuries stand; this is in anticipation of Lt. Dan weekend.

Councilman Sutton said all the dolphins have been installed by Main Street Beaufort.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before City Council, **Councilwoman Beer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman O'Kelley. The motion was approved unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK