

A special meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on April 16, 2013 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.

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.

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF OPEN CONTAINER FROM THE GUILD OF GALLERIES FOR THE ART WALK**

**Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, to approve the request for the event, slated for April 19, 2013.** Councilman Sutton said he had asked the city attorney to look for a way that council would not need to go through this step every time there is an Art Walk. **Ivette Burgess** said the open container request never came to the city manager's desk. **The motion passed 4-0.** (Councilwoman Beer was late to the meeting.)

**Councilman O'Kelley made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to move into a council work session. The motion passed unanimously, and the special meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.**

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on April 16, 2013 at 6:33 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.

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 5:01 p.m.

### **ATAX FY 2012 DISTRIBUTIONS**

**Jeff Evans** explained the process of the TDAC committee in light of the changes in the way the Accommodations Tax funds are being distributed. He said there had been a funding change after finding that the Independence Fund had decided to move the Lt. Dan Band concert to Charleston. The TDAC committee decided to remove the funding and add it to the amount to be carried over to the 2013 funding. Councilman Sutton asked if the whole event was related to the Lt. Dan Band concert. **Chip Dinkins** said that event was what the committee had assumed would bring people to town to stay in hotels.

Mayor Keyserling asked about partnerships and how they made the process different than in years past. Mr. Evans said “some of the attempts to partner were a little tentative,” but for the first time, organizations showed a willingness to work together. He said the TDAC committee felt that this would only get stronger in the future.

Councilman McFee asked if the committee had asked about the overlap with the DMO and if they understood that “there are strings attached to the uses of this money based on cooperative efforts.” Mr. Evans said yes, and the groups were told that they would need to work closely with the DMO. He felt that “everybody is on the same page” in regard to the process.

Councilman O’Kelley said the DMO gets \$50,000 + \$25,000 and a few organizations are partnering with the DMO; he asked if Mr. Evans felt there was “double-dipping.” Mr. Evans said “that might be the case in some cases.” **Steven Murray** said that \$270,000 will be spent on direct advertising, and “the earned and owned media” are more than \$1 million.

Councilman O’Kelley said Main Street Beaufort’s festival marketing had their full request approved, and he said he’d like to know all of the sources of funding Main Street Beaufort gets from the city. Mayor Keyserling said they get \$40,000 from parking revenue and 15% of the remaining net of the parking, which **Kathy Todd** said this past year was around \$20,000 – \$30,000. She said they also get a portion of the Hospitality Tax. Councilman O’Kelley said he’d like exact figures on this.

Councilman McFee said TDAC reviews the entire budget of an organization. Mr. Dinkins said these Main Street Beaufort dollars were reimbursed expenses that they had matched 1 to 1 with an advertising partner and “seemed like they were doing what they are supposed to.” Mayor Keyserling

agreed that they should “look at the whole Main Street picture.” Councilman O’Kelley said council needs to account to the citizens, and Mayor Keyserling agreed that this is an essential issue that hasn’t been addressed for awhile. Mr. Evans said the Main Street Beaufort request was considerably smaller than usual. Councilman O’Kelley said “they got everything they asked for,” and that keyed his interest in other funding. Main Street Beaufort received \$16,000 from Hospitality Tax last year, Ms. Todd said.

**Androula Weiland** of Main Street Beaufort said that Main Street Beaufort nets \$25,000 after expenses on events. Mayor Keyserling asked why they need help if they are netting \$25,000 from festivals. Ms. Weiland said they try to bring people from all over the region and country and have partnerships with other groups for media which doubles or triples the amount they put in. They “try to keep local ads more trade-oriented.”

Mayor Keyserling said organizations are netting money and investing in funding for organizations, especially Main Street Beaufort, which is a partner in marketing downtown, and they are getting other funding from the city. He asked “what the money is and what it is buying.” Mayor Keyserling said some successful festivals “have been kicked off years ago” with Accommodations Tax money, and these dollars “could be used to kick off new things.” Ms. Weiland said they “use the package money for local ads,” the ATAX for regional ads over 50 miles away, and “the festival money helps (them) keep the doors open.”

Mr. Dinkins said the events generate Accommodations Tax by putting people in hotels. Mayor Keyserling agreed but said if they give money to an organization to get it started, and it’s successful, they’re putting \$25,000 extra in their budget; he wondered if they couldn’t “live with less” so that another organization could get the money and start something new.

Mayor Keyserling asked **Robb Wells** about the leveraging of the \$50,000 the Chamber of Commerce was given from Accommodations Tax funds. Mr. Wells said that the DMO markets the events, festivals, and “avenues” of those who have participated in the TDAC requests. There are already things in place, he said: public relations, fulfillment – which he said saves postage costs – and lead generation. In regard to leverage, Mr. Wells said they “have worked with the private sector to offset the price of ads” through ad campaigns, the visitors’ guide, websites, and other means. The Chamber of Commerce “wants to help people’s money go further” and “be consistent with the brand messaging.”

Mayor Keyserling said Main Street Beaufort did a good job researching attendees at the Shrimp Festival a couple of times, and he asked Mr. Wells if the Chamber of Commerce could provide that information from *all* of the festivals so that the groups can know the zip codes and learn more about who’s attending. Mr. Wells said they did it with the film festival and “that’s definitely something we are striving for” and “have done it a couple of times already.” Mayor Keyserling said it’s been done for the hotels and the Chamber of Commerce’s web site, but the Chamber of Commerce “could help the groups validate other dollars.” Mr. Wells said again that they had helped with the film festival; the numbers are being put together in a full Power Point presentation by USCB, he added.

Councilman Sutton said the \$50,000 to the Chamber of Commerce is the largest amount that TDAC funded and asked if that is the biggest award the Chamber of Commerce has gotten. Mr. Wells said the last TDAC grant was for \$72,000. Councilman Sutton said it's very important to him that the DMO understands that these events that are local community events are an important part of the culture, and when the DMO is given money, council wants to make sure that the money TDAC gives them is being used to market those groups. If there were no other organizations getting TDAC money, the Chamber of Commerce would get money as the DMO, and he asked Mr. Wells what they would market. Councilman Sutton said he hopes to see the answer to his questions in 6 months.

This is the first time there's been a breakout for the Visitors' Center, Councilman Sutton said. Mr. Evans said historically, the Chamber of Commerce has applied for both the Visitors' Center and the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Sutton said he believes Accommodations Tax should be spent on the maintenance and operations of the Visitors' Center. In regard to its future, funding for maintenance to support the infrastructure is a priority for council.

Mr. Wells said the TDAC grant for the Visitors' Center will be used for fulfillment, selling products, etc. as well as for maintenance. Mr. Wells said that in the presentation to TDAC, the Chamber of Commerce was "clear on collaboration," and he said the Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to collaborate "even if it wasn't part of the TDAC process for tourism development." They "have the outlets in place," Mr. Wells said, and are "using a pointed effort to track these and determine if it's a valid tourist event or not." The Visitors' Center is "another aspect," Mr. Wells said, and "there are tracking aspects to that as well."

Councilman Sutton said TDAC had recommended about 40% of what the Black Chamber of Commerce had asked for, and designated what was to be spent for marketing the Gullah Arts and Gullah Kinfolk groups. Mr. Evans said some committee members had some difficulty with financial issues in the Black Chamber of Commerce's application. He had asked how the organization's revenue had gone up 230%. Mr. Evans said the Black Chamber of Commerce is doing microloans, and the microloans were part of the financials of the organization. The Black Chamber of Commerce is specifically working with the Gullah Festival and the Gullah Kinfolk to make those events happen, Mr. Evans said, and in the TDAC recommendation, it's specifically stated that the funds would be spent on those events.

Councilman Sutton said he has "wanted to know for years how to wean groups off of TDAC funding for events." He asked if Mr. Evans thought they are "getting there." In regard to the Lt. Dan group, Councilman Sutton asked if that group would have gotten funding repeatedly; he asked if it is true that "any event has a terminal point" in regard to funding. Mr. Evans said the new requirements and expectations led to "everybody kind of setting the reset button." The Gullah Festival and the Gullah Kinfolk began working with the Black Chamber of Commerce, and it's a "new day" for the collaborative efforts of these organizations, he said. Mr. Evans doesn't feel that the TDAC funding should continue in perpetuity and "given the new landscape, that won't happen," he said.

The DragonBoat group had made it clear that they wanted money to get off the ground, Mr. Evans said, and then wouldn't continue to apply for funding indefinitely. Councilman Sutton said the Gullah Festival was told to work with the DMO and the Black Chamber of Commerce. He asked "what the Black Chamber of Commerce collaborates as."

Councilman Sutton said the Black Chamber of Commerce had asked for \$60,000, and they were given \$25,000. Mr. Evans said he understands the question is whether they "are throwing away money" by giving groups less than they asked for. The TDAC feeling was that working with the DMO, "they would double and triple the money that sends ads out into the world," Mr. Evans said. Councilman Sutton asked if in 6 months council and TDAC will understand that this was a good investment to give \$25,000 to make sure that the Gullah Kinfolk gets marketed to this level, the Gullah Festival is marketed to this level, and the Pathways ad, etc. would generate proof that it has been used as the group said it would be. Mr. Evans said they will have compliance meetings, and Accommodations Tax is now running under the understanding that a lot of these funds are reimbursable.

Councilman O'Kelley said some of the entities get money from other sources: membership, the county, etc. He said he's not sure it can be audited to determine if they "are getting the bang for the TDAC buck." Mr. Dinkins said in regard to the money that the Black Chamber of Commerce was given, the ads will be placed regardless, the \$10,000 will help them advertise, and they make it work with what they are given, "even if they ask for the world." Mr. Dinkins said that the committee is trying to make sure that they use the money the way they say they will.

Councilman Sutton told Councilwoman Beer that the money for Lt. Dan was off the table. Councilman Sutton said that Penn Center had asked for \$15,000 and got \$8,000. He asked about the \$5,000 that's not for marketing Heritage Days. Mr. Evans said that they feel that Penn Center has the resources to have a world-class facility for research from around the world, and the committee "wanted to look for a way to give incentive to Penn Center to organize and catalog and archive their materials for research." Councilman Sutton said he agrees that it is a great resource; he's not sure council can award the \$5000 when the plan for refurbishment is given. Mr. Evans said that "some of the recommendations are meant to start a conversation." Mayor Keyserling said "the museum is a stretch," and "anecdotally we can see what Penn Center does for the community."

Councilman Sutton said he had sat through the Penn Center presentation, and "there was not a lot of substance to the request." He finds it difficult to award funding without any proof on return on investment. They don't want to do the same thing they have been doing for seven years.

Councilman McFee asked if the museum permanency and vitality is related to the Sam Doyle exhibit. Councilman Sutton said if they build the Sam Doyle exhibit, and if the money is directed toward marketing that, "that could be big for them." Mr. Dinkins said "it was all lumped together." Councilman Sutton said it's a timing matter for him.

Mayor Keyserling said the committee may have to come back together, and council doesn't have to decide on all of the organizations at the same time if they're not ready to do so. He feels they should move those that are "go's," and then the committee can reconvene. Councilman Sutton said "the organizations should be ready for the process to work." Mayor Keyserling said TDAC is making decisions for organizations as well.

Councilman Sutton said council could say they're awarding the \$8000 and not make stipulations as to how it's used, but he feels the stipulations are important, and the proof will be in the accountability: for tangible proof that they did what they said they would do with the money. Mr. Dinkins said the stipulations were written in because TDAC cannot control what would be happening. Mayor Keyserling asked if council would be willing to award the \$8000 on marketing the Sam Doyle exhibit and Heritage Days.

Councilman Sutton asked how many tourism guides are being funded this year, and Mr. Evans said none. He said he had talked to Lowcountry Tourism to account for how much of their guidebook was used to market Beaufort. **Peach Morrison** said they used the guide book to show who they were reaching out to. They weren't asking for money for the book. She explained the portion / percentages of the book that went to Hilton Head Island (50%) and Bluffton; she said the other is Lady's Island, Port Royal, and Beaufort, which amounted to 24% for using the guide book and the internet in the conversion study. Councilman Sutton said they asked for \$16,500 and were recommended \$8000. He asked if that's what they do every year. Ms. Morrison explained that they ask for the same percentage of the Accommodations Tax total in each area.

Councilman Sutton said in years past, the applications were for funding for guide books, and he asked now if anyone is doing a guide book. Ms. Morrison said they are doing one, but they didn't ask for Accommodations Tax money for the guide book because they knew council didn't want that. Mr. Wells said the Chamber of Commerce will have a guide book. Councilman McFee said they are all self-sustaining in regard to their guide books. **Larry Holman** said they won't use the TDAC money for their guide book but for marketing through Pathways and for collaborations with the Gullah Festival and Gullah Kinfolk.

Ms. Morrison said they are using other media sources, and the group's website is Beaufort-centric "because there is stuff happening in Beaufort." Mr. Evans said part of the TDAC discussion was that if Lowcountry Tourism had had more web statistics to present to the committee, Lowcountry Tourism would probably have gotten more money from TDAC. The idea is that it will make the organizations go out to get more numbers, Mr. Evans said.

Ms. Morrison said Lowcountry Tourism was pleased with the conversion study done through Survey Monkey; she called it "purely organic." Councilman McFee said he was surprised 82% travelled by car, and Mayor Keyserling said that's probably because they're people going to the Visitors' Center. Ms. Morrison said "the web site showed more days spent and money spent." That determines where

Lowcountry Tourism invests its money, she said; they're getting "huge leads" from some sources that show people only staying for one night in Beaufort while they're on their way elsewhere.

Mayor Keyserling asked Ms. Morrison how large her database is: she said 5000 from last year alone. Mayor Keyserling said then they could get 250,000 votes for Candice Glover on "American Idol," "which will leverage more for Beaufort than anyone else could do."

Councilman Sutton asked about the way-finding signs. Mayor Keyserling said TDAC "can't funnel money to that legally." Councilman McFee said it "can come out of another pot." Mr. Evans said he thought that the signs were an exception to the ordinance.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the City Trex walking guide was okay to receive Accommodations Tax funds. Ms. Todd read the Accommodations Tax guidelines. Ms. Todd said she had checked on it, and signs would not be acceptable for tourism. Mr. Evans said again that he had thought that way-finding signs were an exception. Ms. Todd said they're not included in tourism-related expenditures. Councilman Sutton said there's a clause that if it's normally provided for by the municipality, then Accommodations Tax can't fund it.

Councilman O'Kelley asked if it would work if the money were funded to Main Street Beaufort. Councilman McFee said it still has to be awarded for something that is allowable. There's a different between the 2% and 3% which are both stipulated by state law and adopted by city ordinance, Ms. Todd said. Mayor Keyserling asked if a walking tour guide is considered to be the same. Ms. Todd said "it's marketing tourism."

Councilman McFee said the Ghost Tours can show how many people they have brought in, and the interactive tours will increase that. Mr. Evans said that they will be able to download this to smart phones, and the GPS will show different locations. Mayor Keyserling said "the way-finding signs just raised a flag for him." Mr. Evans said the tour apps are the electronic version of printing a tour map.

Councilman Sutton said he's concerned about the \$40,000 that will be left if way-finding signs are removed from consideration. Ms. Todd said it can be used for the operations of the Visitors' Center. Councilman O'Kelley said it could be earmarked in an account. Councilman McFee said they still have to apply for it. Ms. Todd said any group has to apply and appear before TDAC, including if it's the city applying for funding for Visitors' Center maintenance.

Mayor Keyserling asked if there's a reason only \$25,000 was given to the Visitors' Center rather than the \$40,000 they asked for. Mr. Dinkins said that council could make it \$40,000. Councilman Sutton said he wanted to know why they didn't give them the whole amount. TDAC member **Gail Westerfield** said the committee had discussed the fact that the Chamber of Commerce gets 30% as the DMO, was given \$50,000, and then the \$40,000 applied for for the Visitors' Center appeared to be for the same activities for which the other funding was given, so the amount was reduced.

Mr. Wells said they Chamber of Commerce budgets \$65,000 of their money to the Visitors' Center, and maintenance and upgrades were not included. Mr. Wells said he understands that they could go back and do maintenance and upgrades as a separate item. Councilman Sutton said he believes the Arsenal is the right place at this time for the Visitors' Center. He knows "it's a tough building to own and maintain," and it's never had money directed to it, though state statute allows them to.

Councilman O'Kelley asked what the additional \$25,000 would buy: just HVAC or also bathrooms, etc. Councilman Sutton said he feels they should put in a city application for the structure maintenance. Councilman McFee agreed that was the best way. Mr. Wells said that they know during the upcoming heat, having the HVAC will be important to tourists. Mayor Keyserling asked "what won't get done in the difference between \$40,000 and \$25,000," and Mr. Wells said "operations for the Visitors' Center to offset the costs." Councilman Sutton suggested that the DMO might have broken out costs for personnel, lights, etc. for the Visitors' Center rather than just saying "fulfillment."

**Maxine Lutz** asked if the Historic Beaufort Foundation could request Accommodations Tax money for the maintenance of the Verdier House. Mayor Keyserling said they could request it, but the Verdier House isn't owned by the city, which gets nothing in the way of rent for the Visitors' Center.

In regard to the History Museum, four organizations are working together to market the Civil War exhibit. Mayor Keyserling asked about the Ghost Tours; Councilwoman Beer said it definitely brings people from outside the 50 mile radius. Mr. Dinkins said TDAC liked that the Ghost Tours went out and found a partner who could double their money with City Trex which is putting up \$2,500, and the city is putting up \$2,500.

There was general agreement that the Hunting Island idea was good. In regard to the Habitat for Humanity "High on the Hog" collaboration, Mayor Keyserling asked if the DMO was comfortable with the group getting metrics. Mr. Evans said it's marketing, but since it's a new event (in its first year, the food was gone in 30 minutes) TDAC would like the group to get numbers. Mr. Wells said the group is using the Visitors' Center to sell tickets and merchandise and placed rack card for "High on the Hog".

Mr. Wells said the 30% of Accommodations Tax money off the top that is given to the Chamber of Commerce as the DMO would be "freed up" if the group is given the \$40,000 they had requested for the Visitors' Center. Mayor Keyserling asked if an additional \$15,000 for the Visitors' Center would cover the costs of having the Visitors' Center do the metrics for every event that the city funds, working with those groups to gather the information so that next year they could have those numbers for Accommodations Tax awards. Mr. Evans said there are eight groups. \$18,750 would be the cost to do that for all eight groups, Mr. Wells said. Councilman Sutton said they would need to create the paper trail to show that they used the \$18,750 for that purpose. Mr. Wells said that they would need that amount "for the software to do those metrics."

Councilman McFee said the DMO "has never been a reimbursement." Mayor Keyserling said it will be reimbursable because each will be an event with a record. Councilman McFee said they pushed

reimbursement as a criterion for funding by TDAC. This wouldn't work for the Visitors' Center, and Mayor Keyserling said it would if they made metrics collection a function of the Visitors' Center. Mr. Evans said that the metrics need to be done, whoever does it; the numbers will tell who comes here and where they're coming from. It was concluded to bump the Visitors' Center award up to \$43,750.

Mayor Keyserling said funding for Historic Beaufort Foundation and Penn Center hadn't been resolved. Councilman Sutton said Penn Center's award "could be rounded up or the money could be held." Councilman O'Kelley said he's in favor of holding some of it. Mayor Keyserling said the Marine Corps will be downsizing, and there will be fewer grads which is much of what drives Accommodations Tax funding, and "that's a big chunk of this money."

Mr. Evans said the Verdier House ad for Historic Beaufort Foundation was for a show that comes down at the end of May, so it was a reimbursement. Ms. Lutz said the ad is ready to go with the Charleston market for a final push for the show in the next six weeks. Councilman McFee clarified what the requests from Historic Beaufort Foundation were for. There was a discussion about how much more council would be adding into Historic Beaufort Foundation's award. It was generally decided that council would give \$600 more to Historic Beaufort Foundation for advertising the Verdier House.

Councilman Sutton said Penn Center will be given \$8,000 "but not put any hair on it" for marketing. Councilman Sutton said he feels they still need to look at the way-finding piece as it applies to the Visitors' Center. Councilman McFee said the 3% is covered by the local ordinance, and way-finding could come out of that.

Mayor Keyserling said given that in six months they'll see metrics and collaboration, they will begin to see improvement. Mr. Evans said they'll really see this difference in 18 months.

#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF PIGEON POINT PARK**

**Isaiah Smalls** said Pigeon Point Park was built as a neighborhood park and "is now becoming more of a regional park." There are concerns as to how the asset is being used, and there's no regulation to protect it, so they are proposing some regulations. **Robbie Anderson** said that they had had five buses go to Pigeon Point Park on the way to Heritage, and then five days later, they came back to do the same thing.

Councilwoman Beer said that one day recently she had seen that the park "was packed with people," and the parking lot was full. Mayor Keyserling said he thinks it's important to make sure that the neighborhood gets preference because "they have the equity in that." Councilman O'Kelley and Councilman Sutton asked how they can do that. Councilman O'Kelley asked how they can let visitors know the rules. Mayor Keyserling said they could pay a fee if they are using the park as part of a tour.

**Liza Hill** said the parks must be reserved for tours, parties, etc.; Ms. Burgess handles the Waterfront Park reservations, and Ms. Hill will handle all the others. She gets calls daily, and they're "trying to find something that's all-encompassing." There are birthday parties at Pigeon Point Park every weekend;

maybe 90% of the use of the park is for that, Ms. Hill speculated. They aren't looking to make money but more for a punitive means for when the park's misused. There could be a deposit dependent on the number of people in the party. Councilman O'Kelley asked how they could enforce that. Ms. Hill said there are signs, and people are calling because they see a posting and call about events. Mr. Smalls said it's not common knowledge now, but they want to make it common. Mr. Smalls said the neighborhood gets pushed out, otherwise. People were putting in BBQ pits in the mulch beds, dumping live coals, etc. Without signs and regulations, the police department can't do anything about it. Mr. Smalls said he had taken his grandkids one day to Pigeon Point Park, and they also want to ensure that the parts of the park that were designed for younger kids were *kept* for younger kids.

Councilman McFee said he understands where the rules come from and what they are trying to do, but when they establish a reservation system, they have to make it clear to those reserving that it's not "their" park, and others will come in to use the park as well. It needs to remain clear that *the entire* park is open to all who want to use it. Ms. Hill said this is told to those who make reservations. Councilman McFee said it needs to be clear that the park isn't being gated off for the party-goers.

Councilman Sutton asked if this is the direction they want to go in; it wasn't planned to have parks be so active that they need to have deposits, etc. His gut tells him that if they need to do more than put up a sign with rules, then "it's over-regulated." The penalties for not following the rules would be clear as well. Councilman McFee agreed but said "if they're not clear who registered, it's not clear who vandalized." Councilwoman Beer said the way the park is being used now is forcing them to create regulations. She's seen as many as six parties taking place in the park at one time. Mayor Keyserling said it's not a problem with having multiple parties, but it is "if they leave a mess." Councilman McFee said they might not want more regulation, but it's creating a problem for Public Works.

Councilman O'Kelley said there are contradictions about where or if people can cook at the park. Ms. Hill said gas grills are allowed. Councilwoman Beer said she wouldn't allow any cooking at the park. Councilman Sutton said they would need cooking pads if they are going to allow cooking. Ms. Hill said grilling is allowed if it's gas and they have an extinguisher. She tells them that and to do grilling on the hard surface. Councilman Sutton said grilling might be nice, but he asked if that was the intent of the park. They could have parties without cooking. Councilman Sutton said if they don't have the proper place for cooking, then they shouldn't allow cooking or fires at all until they decide to make it that type of park. Ms. Hill said 60-65% of people are asking if they can grill. Ms. Robbie Anderson said if there's not a law against it, the police department will not enforce it.

Councilman Sutton said they can describe what isn't allowed and may have to change the ordinance "to put some teeth in it for those who break it." Councilman O'Kelley said he thinks it's important *not* to allow cooking there, and Councilwoman Beer agreed because it is a safety issue.

Ms. Hill said it's an 8-acre park. Councilman Sutton said it should be first come, first served, not by reservations, and they need to say that there's no cooking there. Councilman O'Kelley asked Ms. Robbie Anderson how often she feels the park is overly full. Ms. Robbie Anderson said in the summer,

almost every weekend is overly full, and the county uses it for their recreation program now during the week, so they have 2 – 10 buses there from the county.

**Erica Dickerson** said she doesn't see how people could reserve a space without pavilions. She feels that if they posted the rules about no cooking or open fires, maybe "people should have to have a permit for huge bouncy houses" that are for the kids at the party. Ms. Hill said they are not allowed to have bouncy houses. Ms. Robbie Anderson said she has been called for people having swimming pools there.

Ms. Hill summarized what had been discussed, including putting something in the ordinance about what she says verbally when people call her. Councilman McFee asked if the current ordinance covers litter; Ms. Hill said Chief Clancy said it needs to be much more specific than it is in order for them to be able to enforce.

Councilman Sutton said he wants no reference in the ordinance to balloons. Councilman O'Kelley asked if these rules should apply to all city parks except for the Waterfront Park which has its own rules. He asked if there are other parks where people can cook. **Officer Hope Able** said Washington Street Park has pads but no grills there anymore. Ms. Hill said in answer to Councilman Sutton that it hasn't been a problem.

Mayor Keyserling said he's seen grilling in a park at The Point's annual event. Ms. Hill asked if a church group could grill at Washington Street Park for their Thursday suppers. Councilman Sutton said they could have a park with an exception for specific use such as Washington Street Park. Mayor Keyserling said they could create a permit for the groups that coordinate the supper event. Councilman McFee said that would be the one exception, for Washington Street Park.

### **TRAILS GRANT**

**Libby Anderson** said the state has a trails grant available with a maximum of \$100,000 with a local match of 20%. The city has sent in a letter of intent with two options. Ms. Hill said one option was for Southside Park for the trail of two miles per the Civic Master Plan. They would have bridges for the tidal basins. The other option is for Phase 3 of the Rail Trail, Ms. Hill said. If the money is used for that, they won't co-mingle the Cox Family money with the federal money but use it for "spurs." They have not yet heard back from the grant administrator, she said.

Mayor Keyserling asked if they "are looking to do this with a partner." Ms. Anderson said it would be the city but they will ask the Town of Port Royal to do its own grant. Ms. Anderson said they would be two separate deals: the grant money would enhance the Cox family funded trail-building. **David Tedder** said he went to the Town of Port Royal, and they gave available funds as a match grant, but they have been talking with the mayor, council, and city administration about a joint application with the city, and he thought they had been in touch about a joint project for Southside Park. They have discussed coordinating to bolster the application for the \$100,000 at two meetings. Ms. Anderson said they could get \$200,000 if both the town and city applied for a \$100,000 grant, and both could go to

the Rail Trail. Mayor Keyserling said they could do a collaboration, and this would be for amenities. Mayor Keyserling said part of the trail on this side of Ribaut Road is in the Town of Port Royal.

Ms. Hill said she didn't know the parameters of the grant, but there might be a possibility of a match. Mr. Tedder said they can't do it logistically, and it isn't legal, but the enhancements, while helpful, are not what will get the trail built. Mr. Tedder said the county had made a recommendation to go to county council with the engineering portion on the Depot Road to Highway 170 area. Mayor Keyserling said they need to tie the park to Southside. He said there's to be a trailhead and parking at Highway 170, which Councilman McFee said is part of the TIGER grant. Mr. Tedder said the county's Public Facilities committee also wants to revisit using their Accommodations Tax Capital Improvement funds to assist with Phase 3.

Councilman Sutton asked how the Depot Building and the current trail are holding up, and if there are problems. Councilman O'Kelley said it's doing well. Councilman Sutton said they had discussed the building at length. Mr. Tedder said they "still need to discuss the best and most appropriate use for the building," perhaps by not-for-profits. The immediate need is to raise enough cash to build 2.5 more miles to Ribaut Road by Christmas. Ms. Hill said parking and restrooms are the number one complaint.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before City Council, **Councilman Sutton made a motion to adjourn the work session, seconded by Councilman O'Kelley. The motion was approved unanimously,** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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