

A special work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 17, 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, Mike Sutton, Mike McFee, and George O’Kelley, 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 OF BUDGET AND REVENUES**

Mayor Keyserling said that the public hearing had been heard and Mr. Dadson and **Kathy Todd** had come up with a new recommendation in regard to the budget and revenues. Copies were supplied to the public present. Mayor Keyserling said the public safety fees were removed, and Mayor Keyserling said he’d received no complaints about that.

Mr. Dadson said following the work session and public hearing, senior staff looked at the proposed revenues and expenditures. In the original budget, they recommended public safety and transportation fees. They also recommended that the property tax for operations was based on a full roll forward and “nobody knows the exactness of that roll forward,” but in the budget ordinance, they have taken an “even Steven” approach to that: whatever mills it takes to stay even. The budget was prepared using April 2013 estimates.

In the revised budget, Mr. Dadson said, at council’s direction, they eliminated the public safety fee and reduced the transportation fee to \$25 from \$40 per vehicle which made it \$180,000. They increased sanitation fees to cover those expenses to \$16.20 per unit per month which raises \$136,000. Then last week, they recommended increasing the property tax revenues for operations under the CPI cap of 4.32% as allowed by state law; most jurisdictions in the county are doing this right now, he said, and it would raise the mills and revenues by \$142,000.

In regard to expenditures, Mr. Dadson said they found \$184,000 worth of cuts:

- They lowered the contract management fee for City Hall by \$60,000.
- Information technology was lowered by \$28,000.
- Planning: lowered by \$20,000
- FD: lowered by \$41,000, mostly from non-critical operation issues such as dress uniforms, and mattresses and bed frames at the headquarters operation. He said he and Ms. Todd feel strongly that the latter expenditures can be put into the bond amount.
- Park: Mr. Dadson said the contract for the six block area of downtown and Waterfront Park is currently \$457,000 and has already ended and is on a month to month now, so council could end the contract now. Mr. Dadson said the Public Services director had negotiated a reduction

of about \$107,000 in the current budget. It would require council to extend the contract. Also, the park budget included \$40,000 to cover maintenance of things such as Spanish Moss Trail. They have recommended lowering that by \$10,000. They recommend maintaining the budget at \$350,000, but council has options: stop the contract it has now altogether but with no staff, etc., to make up for what will be stopped or lower the amount for the Spanish Moss Trail by \$10,000 and some right-of-way costs by \$10,000 as well.

- Stormwater: This budget could be lowered by \$15,000.

Mr. Dadson said the public safety fee would be eliminated and the transportation fee taken from \$40 per vehicle to \$25, which reduces revenues from \$320,000 to \$180,000. This balances the budget for a total reduction of the current proposed budget of \$347,000.

Councilman O'Kelley asked Mr. Dadson about the refuse fee increase of \$2.70; he wondered about the receptacles and recycle bins. There was a general discussion about how long people have had them. Councilman O'Kelley said many of them are coming apart, and he asked about a provision to replace those. Mayor Keyserling said they have some in reserve. **Isaiah Smalls** said that when they re-negotiate or go out to bid, it will be a requirement of the contractor to provide the bins and carts. Councilman O'Kelley asked if the \$2.70 increased shouldn't "be bumped up more" because of the need to replace them. Mayor Keyserling asked what the shortfall is; he said he's in favor of raising that, in order "to pay what it costs." Ms. Todd said they factored in the annual contractual increase in the costs which has reduced the margin for the reserve for replacement carts. The reserve that they had been putting aside has been shrinking, so the 20% increase will help to recover those shrinking reserves. Mayor Keyserling said people are paying the cost plus replenishing the reserve because they dropped the price by \$3 in the past. Ms. Todd said that was right.

Councilman Sutton said next year when the contract ends, they have to see where the negotiations take the city in the new service contract. Mayor Keyserling asked if Port Royal went through the city, and Mr. Dadson said they bid separately. Councilman McFee asked if Waste Pro was comparable for Port Royal. Mr. Smalls said it was \$16+.

Councilman McFee said he was concerned about reducing the money for maintenance of the trail. Mayor Keyserling suggested waiting on that topic. Councilman Sutton said that they have said all along that as they went with contractual services, they would tweak the budgets annually to fit the actual cost of the service and not pull out of the General Fund to pay for things that aren't related.

Mayor Keyserling said he recalled that the week before, Mr. Dadson had said that the city could have an MOU with the county that the city would maintain what is in Beaufort. Mr. Dadson said that was correct. Mayor Keyserling said he thought that they were going to sit down and talk with the county. Mr. Dadson said there are 3 separate contracts with The Greenery: for stormwater; for the downtown area; and with Port Royal for right-of-ways, easements, etc. They established a high level of service for the Spanish Moss Trail and that's around \$40,000, Mr. Dadson said. They recommend lowering that level of maintenance care for now.

Councilman McFee said he thinks they can do it with the \$10,000 reduction. Mayor Keyserling said they would have 5 miles of trail by December. He asked if they were planning on that. Mr. Smalls said there was a clause in the MOU discussing the county contributing, though whether discussions occurred outside of that, he didn't know. Mr. Dadson said their contributions are in-kind, though. This is just for maintaining it.

Mayor Keyserling said he didn't know how far it is from Allison Road to Port Royal, but it is intended for that to be completed by December. There was a discussion about where the trail would go to and whose responsibility it would be. Mayor Keyserling said that "another Waterfront Park" is being built, referring to the trail and its maintenance expenses. He's heard comments that the nature trail is "over-landscaped and over-designed." People feel they should have a conversation with the PATH Foundation about whether it needs to be so landscaped and what could be done to make it less maintenance-heavy. Mr. Dadson said they have been saying this from Day One. The first mile is "a showcase mile," and it costs \$30,000 to maintain it, and the balance of the trail's miles will be about \$25,000 per mile. They are picking up trash, making sure things work, cutting grass back, etc. as basic maintenance. Mayor Keyserling said they need to have a conversation with the county sooner rather than later about the fact that Beaufort is maintaining another regional asset, like Waterfront Park. Mr. Dadson agreed.

Councilman Sutton said they "need to think of how they got to that first mile through donations," and the city will be charged to maintain what was put in, so he wants to ensure that the city knows the grade of park that's being put in and "delineate the difference between the hubs and the linear space." Councilman Sutton said everyone wants it to be beautiful, and they plant things that aren't necessary. Mr. Dadson said **Liza Hill** has been involved in the planting, and "a lot of it is hardy stuff that can survive without watering systems." Mr. Smalls said the hub is well-designed, and as the other parts of the trail are designed, they need to be very low maintenance, i.e., just grass. Mr. Dadson said the existing contract and the pricing within it is being used to give council "the maintenance costs for what the city has right now." Staff feels that they can lower the cost, and it will decrease frequency of times they maintain it.

Councilman Sutton said "the teeth in this is not reducing costs but in increasing the length of the service contract." Mr. Dadson said that's in the Waterfront Park part. Councilman Sutton asked how that ties in to the two other areas, and Mr. Dadson said they are separate. Mr. Dadson said they have bid once for the Waterfront Park and once for street / stormwater. Then they began to "squeeze down and close down those contracts," and when Port Royal went out for bids, Beaufort did the street section with them "and some stormwater stuff," which lowered costs in that third contract. Mr. Smalls said what The Greenery has been doing on the trail has been pro bono and not on contract. Mr. Dadson said the city has a legal obligation to maintain the trail. Councilman Sutton asked if they had signed a contract yet for the \$40,000, and Mr. Dadson said no, it's part of the current street contract.

Mayor Keyserling said he'd like to have a conversation with the Spanish Moss Trail committee. They have raised little money, and he would like to know what they plan to do to help maintain the trail. The 3 jurisdictions have the responsibility, Mr. Dadson countered, so getting the county to define what it means by "in-kind," and the frequency of the work they'll do in-kind is what's needed. There will be a cost to maintain this asset, he said, because it goes right through the city. The conversation about maintenance should therefore be with Port Royal and the county. The Spanish Moss Trail group should be talked to about designing it to keep costs down for maintenance.

Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Dadson the absolute minimum for trail maintenance, and Mr. Dadson said they have suggested \$30,000 at the Depot trailhead, which is "fairly inexpensive". Mr. Dadson said the city's commitment will be for everything within the city limits. Councilman Sutton said he'd like to hear a report on a minimalistic type of linear park design; he didn't envision a landscaped thoroughfare but assumed it would be "more rural." Councilman McFee said the PATH trail in Atlanta is "pretty minimalized" in terms of plantings, and all they do is keep it cut back. Mr. Dadson said they want to "have eyes on" that kind of trail and ensure that they don't have liabilities on it. A presence on it will address safety issues. The tone for the design has been set in the first mile, Mr. Dadson said; the county has a contract to go from the Depot to Highway 170, and then there is additional fundraising money to go south. Councilman Sutton said he's concerned that the bar has been set with Waterfront Park and a vendor who's helping to create this beautiful place, "and we can't really afford that one, so why would we do more?" Councilwoman Beer said their high standards are hard to maintain. Mr. Dadson said the council can lower the standards of its parks. Councilman Sutton said he feels they have to talk about that.

Mayor Keyserling said he doesn't know the difference between annuals and perennials. He asked if switching to perennials would save the city considerable money. Mr. Smalls said they would "lose a lot of color" with perennials. **Edie Rodgers** said they will die down every season and then come back. Mr. Smalls said it "doesn't look very attractive in its down season."

Mr. Dadson said they have discussed a park fee but didn't recommend it to the county, but to make it work, it needs to be county-wide and then distributed per capita and by the amount of park within a jurisdiction. That would require ownership changes; it would be collected county-wide. Mayor Keyserling said the Northern Regional Implementation Commission has been discussing this for 2 years, but when the committee suggested hiring a consultant to determine "what we had in the way of parks and what they cost," it fell apart. Mayor Keyserling told them not to spend money on that because Beaufort could tell them that information.

Councilman Sutton said Waterfront Park "is a big deal." Mr. Dadson said that's where the majority of the issues are. Maintenance of a 6-block area and a 7-acre park is \$457,000. Mayor Keyserling added "and the right-of-ways." Mr. Dadson said The Greenery maintains everything downtown. Mayor Keyserling said "the public assets that the city doesn't own or that are shared by everybody (are) what has us in this position." Mr. Dadson said at least \$450,000 of the budget is spent on maintaining right-of-ways, site distance clearances, etc. on assets the city doesn't own. Staff had made a presentation to

the council and the Redevelopment Commission about the high costs of debt service and the maintenance of downtown. They can only tax or charge fees on 12,500 people.

Mayor Keyserling asked what the city is giving up with the \$107,000 reduction and Mr. Dadson said "frequency." Mr. Smalls said The Greenery is saying \$350,000 now, if the city signs a contract. Mr. Smalls said it will be the same level of service. Councilman McFee asked if they adjusted the level of service to the trail, and instead of an "A++ level" in Waterfront Park, reduced it to an "A," if they could absorb some of the additional money coming with additional trail mileage. Mr. Smalls said he primarily discussed a reduction in the fee of the extension. Mayor Keyserling asked if The Greenery had priced the trail, and Mr. Smalls said yes, at \$40,000 and in further discussions it was down to \$30,000. Mr. Dadson said in the budget now it's \$350,000, and if they adjust fees and don't have additional revenues, they will have to take that number down.

Mr. Dadson said maintaining assets like the parks, the downtown, and the right-of-ways there and throughout the city, etc. is based upon contracts, so squeezing them down or eliminating those contracts would mean the assets weren't being maintained. Councilman Sutton said they clearly want to maintain; he said he doesn't know that they can get a tangible result if they gave the direction to maintain a "level B park." Councilman McFee said The Greenery has been working on this for 3 years, so they should have it at a level as to the costs to maintain.

Mr. Dadson said they could do bidding to see what the market would do, but even at \$350,000 the city still needs additional revenues to maintain it. Councilman Sutton said the Waterfront Park is the jewel of the city's parks and the Spanish Moss Trail, he agreed with Mayor Keyserling, needs to be made to be at a lower level than the Waterfront Park. He said that the city was never asked at what level they wanted the trailhead to be; "they presented us a design and a beautification project." Mayor Keyserling said that staff worked with them; Mr. Dadson said "we tried to get in there at the lowest cost perspective." He said that Ms. Hill is conscious of getting plants that are low-cost for maintenance.

Councilman Sutton asked about the rest of the parks system. Mayor Keyserling said they started a process of talking with the Open Land Trust about priorities with the parks, but that stopped when **Patty Kennedy** became director. He feels they need to start that conversation up again. Councilman Sutton said staff has been improving "these little parks" and council needs to determine if that's what they want staff to do: "improve these little parks to a level of service where they have to keep sending people back" for trash pick-up, etc.

Mr. Dadson asked Ms. Todd the current park budget; she said it's \$1.2 million including the debt payment and a \$309,000 hospitality bond. Mayor Keyserling said he feels that whatever they have, they should keep in the best possible shape. He asked if the city has too many parks that aren't used and said that's part of the conversation he referred to earlier that had ended. Mr. Dadson said, "That's not going to get you through your budget, though."

Mr. Dadson said as long as the city has assets, it's going to have liabilities; they need to minimize risk to the extent that they can. Councilman O'Kelley said eventually they will have to have a working arrangement with Port Royal and the county, so that when one passes out of one jurisdiction where the trail is and into another, it doesn't look "like you're going from a garden to a desert." Mayor Keyserling agreed that they "need a shared contract of some sort."

Mr. Dadson said the capital, one-time O&M expenditures are for dealing with street tree issues, patching city roads that the city has liabilities for, etc. When TIF 1 came off, they had to deal with the costs of maintaining the Waterfront Park, which cost \$8 million to build the second time, which will need to be done again in 15-20 years, he said.

Councilman Sutton said by the next budget cycle, he doesn't "want staff to think that they should keep growing parks." Maintenance is one thing, he feels, "but increasing costs by adding things you need to maintain is not the way to go." There's no budget to pay for it. Mayor Keyserling said council also needs to decide how many parks it needs. Councilman Sutton said the budget is "interesting, but there's no real answer here" except in raising fees that exist and adding a new one. Rolling stock isn't touched, he said, and "the taxpayer won't understand why you bought six new vehicles in a year when you're talking about cutting parks or diminishing park service contracts." Mr. Dadson said it's done to lower net costs on vehicles. Mayor Keyserling said they've "been saving for that." Councilman Sutton said the public won't understand that "or care about your answer." When they see \$150,000 spent on vehicles and other costs being raised, Councilman Sutton said, they won't understand why. Mr. Dadson said in reality, if all the capital were put to the side as well as all the savings, O&M costs would still increase by \$600,000. Once the outside source of revenue – TIF 1 – was gone, it was gone, and "facing devaluation on the scale it's going to be faced, and (Act) 388 caps the ability to maneuver within it, this council has very few options to go to." If council chooses, "fees are about the only way you can go." Mr. Dadson said LOST was supported by council, but "it's not to be this go-around"; it's the way to revenue-share among jurisdictions.

Ms. Todd said the operating expenditures are supported by current year revenues. The rest of the difference is in savings for capital. The operating expenses are what the city is committing to reoccur every year, with the current available resources. Councilman Sutton said that's what they've grown the city to, and the public might wonder how to reduce government that has grown that big. The county is going to roll-forward taxes to meet costs instead of reducing the costs, he said. Councilman Sutton asked what the answer would be if they were to tell Mr. Dadson to reduce the budget by \$1 million by any means necessary. Mr. Dadson said right now he "would squeeze all your contracts down to zero, and then you wouldn't have anything to replace them." Councilman Sutton said they would still have the parks to deal with and the streets, etc. That infrastructure still exists, and the city doesn't have the people to deal with it. Mr. Dadson said 5 years ago, they did lower the cost structure by 25%, reducing city employees from 168 to 130.

Councilman Sutton said "the cost to own the city today is this, and it's not going to go down." If they took out the \$1 million as he had proposed hypothetically, he suspects it would be a "D" grade city in

terms of appearance. He said that's what they need to determine: if they are willing to do that and not raise fees or taxes. Councilman McFee said in the last 4 years, they have discussed if a service costs "X" dollars, they want the fee to reflect that, and they have "failed to do that with sanitation." In the last 2 years, they should have increased the sanitation fee. He thinks it's "very appropriate to reflect the cost center" as it ties in with fees. They "have a huge contract for the downtown area that has no revenue source," Councilman McFee said. Mayor Keyserling added, "and the right-of-ways," and said he feels the question is "what it's worth to do those things." Councilman Sutton said he will not support taking any more streets. Mr. Dadson said that they have told SCDOT that they are willing "as long as it's a fair and equitable exchange that makes sense" for the city.

Councilman O'Kelley said in the capital projects, it calls for a mast arm at Craven and Carteret for almost \$40,000. He asked if it was "necessary or required." Mr. Dadson said it will come out of TIF, and the TIF dollars need to be spent down. Councilman O'Kelley said he wants to know if it's "necessary or required." Mr. Dadson said if the TIF is not capitalized, they are returning it to the owners of the TIF. Councilman O'Kelley said his question is whether they need to put a mast arm there by state law or something else. He said he doesn't "want to know about TIF." Mr. Dadson said it's not the law. Councilman O'Kelley asked if SCDOT owns it or the city. He was told SCDOT owns it. Councilman O'Kelley asked if the money couldn't be put "somewhere else where it's better served." Mr. Dadson detailed some of the places the TIF had been spent. Councilman O'Kelley said he feels it can be used for something different. Mr. Smalls said that for that amount of money that's in the TIF that "is labeled as Carteret and Craven," they're also getting mast arms at other intersections. DOT is helping to do those intersections; Mr. Dadson said the county is, too.

Councilman O'Kelley asked what "payment in lieu" for \$25,000 is. Mr. Dadson said the Housing Authority pays a payment in lieu for services for their non-tax paying properties that they own. Ms. Todd said it's under a federal program that HUD has for housing authorities. Councilman O'Kelley asked what "victim's rights law" for \$34,000 is. **Linda Roper** said a portion of every fine that is assessed is set aside for the expenditures of victims' rights. Ms. Todd said there's a revenue source that matches the expenditure.

Councilman O'Kelley said "there's a big chunk of stuff that says non-departments" at \$1.7 million, and he has "no clue what that covers." Ms. Todd said it includes maintenance of the City Hall and its support buildings at \$400,000, property insurance, Burton fire district payments, the city's contribution of \$65,000 to Lowcountry Housing Trust, a \$45,000 contribution toward economic partnerships, and "the balance out is our transfer to capital projects." Councilman O'Kelley said in the future, it would be better to list those out.

Councilman O'Kelley asked what the \$21,644 for city council benefits was. Mayor Keyserling said it's for health insurance. Councilman O'Kelley said he doesn't get his health insurance through the city. Ms. Todd said it's "health insurance, retirement, and any benefits the council has." Councilman O'Kelley asked why a council person would get retirement benefits. Ms. Todd said she doesn't know if they do, but that figure includes whatever benefits council members had signed up for: FICA and Medicare

contributions, etc. Everything that is not part of council's gross pay is a benefit, she said. If Councilman O'Kelley doesn't have health insurance in his payroll file, Ms. Todd said, that benefit will not be added for him. Mr. Dadson said council decides how it pays itself and what benefits it receives.

Mayor Keyserling said he still doesn't fully understand what information technology is, but he knows it includes the phones and "a halfway decent website getting better." Mr. Dadson said it's "everything that keeps everything going." Mayor Keyserling asked if the "non-departmental" expenses were not maintenance but cleaning, utilities, etc., and Ms. Todd said yes, it includes all contracts relating to the building, i.e., the elevator contract, security, electricity, water, etc.

Mr. Dadson said if council doesn't want fees, they have to direct staff "to cut more." Mayor Keyserling said in regard to fees, the increase in property tax is a reality. Councilman Sutton said this city went through years of continuously lowering the mills and didn't produce a measurable level of service for the city, and it's not been raised, and then Act 388 passed.

Mayor Keyserling said he believes everyone is comfortable with the sanitation fee hike. Councilman O'Kelley said he has not heartburn about raising it higher than staff has proposed. Mayor Keyserling said he does have a problem with that. If this amount will do it, that's what they want to do. Mr. Smalls said council needs to keep in mind that next July they will have to bid it out again, so it may be higher.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the transportation fee would be structured as a separate fund dedicated to pay for the right-of-ways. Ms. Todd said it would be similar to stormwater in that one could see the transportation fee in the Streets budget. It's not required to be in a separate fund. Councilman O'Kelley said it would reduce the general fund input, and Ms. Todd said yes. Mayor Keyserling said he's currently opposed to it, and he was "trying to figure out how to be for it." He knows they have a problem taking care of someone else's asset; Mr. Dadson added that they have to service what they do own, too.

Councilman Sutton said they would like to see it tracked exactly against the department budget that it's for sidewalks and street clearing on the city-owned streets. Mr. Dadson said the sidewalks are the city's. Councilman Sutton said he could swallow it more easily if the \$140,000 was going to specifically go to the 26 miles of road the city owns. Mr. Dadson said they can do that. Ms. Todd said it has to be applied that way by law. Councilman O'Kelley said it frees up some General Fund money.

Mayor Keyserling said his second concern is that he opposed the penny sales tax the first two times because he knows how the state works. Councilwoman Beer said **David Taub** and **Tony Bush** didn't want to raise taxes. Mayor Keyserling said **Bill Rauch** didn't either. Councilwoman Beer said that then they couldn't keep up the streets and the parks, and "the city looked awful," so cutting back had no benefits, and everyone suffered for it. Mayor Keyserling said they are introducing something new when they appear to be "grubbing for money." Councilwoman Beer said she looks at it as a way to run the city at the level that they have gotten used to and deserve. Mr. Dadson said it's replacing the TIF revenue stream, and it's dealing with increased asset costs over time. \$15.3 million has been held for

years, Mr. Dadson said. When they lowered mills, they supplemented them with other taxing structures, but they were also bringing on the city hall building, redoing Waterfront Park - which is great but costly - and minimizing liabilities. People have come to expect a beautiful, clean, safe city, Mr. Dadson said, and these are the costs to maintain that. The city "is at the max that they used to get rid of mills prior," he said. Fees are allowed by the constitution in South Carolina. It's done with sanitation and stormwater already. Council has put its effort forward and is on record as wanting to work more with partners on these kinds of things.

Councilman O'Kelley said that the city is "shooting blindly until they get the county reassessment." It may not be as big of a pill as they fear. Anything they do now, he said, they will have to re-do based on how it goes. They may have leeway on the transportation fee if they don't pass it now. Councilman Sutton said when the state stops maintaining streets even at the low level they do now, the city will own them.

Mayor Keyserling asked if City Hall was being maintained out of the TIF, and Ms. Todd said no, it's out of the General Fund. Councilman Sutton asked, if they don't do the transportation fee, where they will come up with the \$180,000 that it would generate. Mr. Dadson said they can squeeze down contracts. Mayor Keyserling asked what placeholders they have that they may or may not use. There's \$90,000 from not using the Lawrence Group anymore, and Mr. Dadson said that is for the Redevelopment Commission. Mayor Keyserling asked for what it would be used for the Redevelopment Commission, and Mr. Dadson said for support staff. Councilman Sutton asked if there were any staffing changes that will affect this year's budget, and Mr. Dadson said that's the only one.

Councilman McFee said economically, as they neared the 15-year expiration of the TIF, they were at the lowest place economically, and the value depreciated. In the reassessment, they anticipate that the city's dollars' value will drop, he said, which reduces revenue from taxes. Councilman Sutton said also, the downtown is 40% empty and not as vibrant as it needs to be. 500 new houses in the Historic District would go a long way toward supporting that area, he said. Mr. Dadson said that the city had supported the extension of TIFs 1 and 2 and proposed TIF 3, but its partners in the school board and county did not support them.

Mr. Dadson said he feels furloughs and the "sequestration style of doing things is irresponsible." Council took its cost structure down by 25%, which was the responsible way to do it and outsourced where it was competitive in the market. Costs just go up over time, he said. Councilman Sutton said he'd support the transportation fee in that the city owns roads and does not have a program to cover those.

Ms. Rodgers asked council to look closely at the Streets Department increases for salaries and \$150,000 in operations increases which she finds to be "huge." She feels there can be cuts there instead of a transportation fee. Mr. Smalls said part of it is because of contracts that the department has which they "have already whittled down." Another part is the \$50,000 on the urban forest contract which was whittled to \$40,000; they have deferred maintenance on streets the city owns. He

enumerated those costs. As rolling stock gets older, they have costs to replace equipment. Mayor Keyserling said the new hire is for facilities maintenance, which saved \$60,000.

Don Starkey said that he had seen in the newspaper that the day dock engineering request had gone out. He said “if you think maintaining the trail through the woods is expensive, wait until you try maintaining a dock and its liabilities.” Mr. Dadson said there’s money in the parks budget to maintain the current dock, and that money he referred to is matched monies for a grant; it’s in the capital fund. Mr. Smalls said the life expectancy of a dock before it needs maintenance is about 20 years, so day dock maintenance will be minimal. Councilman McFee said they need to be conscious of the added costs, though, as they need to be for Waterfront Park and the Spanish Moss Trail.

Councilman Sutton asked how much the debt mill increase was and Ms. Todd said 2.94, based on the April estimate. Mr. Dadson said \$364,000 was cut. There was a general discussion of figures, including the roll up. Ms. Todd said the debt mill with a full roll forward is 15.21. Mayor Keyserling said it’s 4 plus whatever the rollup is.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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