

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 13, 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 work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

BEAUFORT MUSEUM UPDATE

Katherine Lang said that she and representatives from the museum had come before council in regard to museum collection supplies, chiefly software, and to present a budget so council will know where they are at this point.

Ms. Lang indicated a list of the materials they wanted to purchase. **Paul Keyserling** explained what the purchases were, including "the software to catalog index the collection" so it can be accessed and referenced. It is used by the Beaufort Room at the library and other places. They also are seeking computer hardware for storage for the digital collection, he said.

Councilman McFee asked what the "Brockington" reference is; Ms. Lang said it's to refine and make the permanent exhibit something for which they have a long-term plan. What they can afford to do they will do now, Ms. Lang said, but then build onto it into the future as necessary. They asked for a third from the Beaufort Fund, a third from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, and a third from the city; they would attempt to get a federal grant to put the plan in place in the future.

Anna Shaeffer presented informative materials to council. She described docent recruiting and training plans. Mayor Keyserling asked about the demographics of those interested in docent training. Ms. Shaeffer said many are retirees and others are full-time employees looking to pick up weekend hours at the museum. They are from throughout the county. Ms. Lang said they are trying to put together an education plan, and part of it will coordinate with TCL and USCB to bring in docents. Mayor Keyserling asked if they coordinated with the Beaufort County Historical Foundation, and Ms. Lang said they "have invited them to participate and share." They are also working with Historic Beaufort Foundation on a way to share tickets, Ms. Lang said.

Mayor Keyserling said he feels everyone is concerned about sustainability because the museum has had "a number of starts." Mayor Keyserling asked if they have a long-term vision of what the museum will be to the community and how it will sustain itself. Ms. Lang said yes. Their first exhibit was about fish camps, then they showed a film about the Sea Islands; they had an exhibit in coordination with the Friends of Hunting Island, and just finished a month-long exhibit about the Water Festival from its beginnings. From September through Christmas, they

will have an exhibit on the South Carolina Colored Troops, including a showing of “Glory” and an encampment.

Ms. Lang said “We are trying to do everything we can do to reach out to the community.” They will be visiting service organizations to make them aware of the museum. They partnered to get Accommodations Tax money for the Civil War events. For example, because they collaborated with Artworks, **Natalie Daise** will reprise her performance as Harriet Tubman. Mayor Keyserling asked if the shows they do are documented so that they can sustain themselves. Ms. Lang said they only have photos so far, but will have a paper written about this next exhibit. They have records of who came and the money that they have taken in.

There was a discussion about the museum’s Facebook page and other pages that could link to it. Councilman McFee said they are photographing the exhibits and suggested that they put those pictures on their website. They have a new website, Ms. Lang said, and are still feeling their way with it. Mayor Keyserling asked where the Beaufort 3C materials are, and Ms. Lang said they went to the library, but there’s still a site, and they should link to it.

Councilman Sutton said it sounds like maybe they are making a good start, but they may also need a virtual museum along with the brick and mortar version; he suggested that future grants might be applied for for “archiving it into a more advanced web site.” Ms. Lang said their new site is on Word Press and **Jeff Kidd** is learning how to use it. Councilman Sutton said he looks at the museum’s “past failures and the desires of the community,” and he feels it needs to change and grow to sustain itself. Councilman Sutton said the permanent site of the museum has been discussed, and he’d like to hear if there are strides being made to move elsewhere, such as The Arsenal. Ms. Lang said they are in discussions and would let council know as they make progress.

Mr. Dadson said the museum request is within the realm of the money held for them in trust. Ms. Lang said in regard to funding from the Olson bequest, it should only be used for artifacts’ acquisitions. Mr. Dadson said he has asked Ms. Lang if she would come in quarterly to make a presentation to council.

Councilwoman Beer complimented the current museum board, and Ms. Lang agreed. Ms. Lang said part of their success is that “now everything is available online when we don’t know what we’re doing.”

PARKING METER UPGRADES

Lundy Baker said they have sent two invoices for upgraded meters for the city to consider: One is for 56 meters to replace those in the core area of downtown, and the other is for 82 meters “to handle all of Bay Street.” Mr. Dadson said “there is a reserve set aside for these kinds of things.” Mayor Keyserling asked if the test meters were working, and Mr. Baker said yes. There have been no battery failures, and only two jams, to which they were able to respond immediately because emails were sent to them about the jams.

The upgraded meters will be able to take \$1 coins which the merchants can give out, Mr. Baker said. All the banks downtown have agreed to handle \$1 coins. They're still showing a 27% rate on credit card usage on the upgraded meters "and it's climbing." Feedback on the test meters has been good, he says.

Councilman McFee asked about merchant meter tokens and Mr. Baker said they can add the ability to take tokens if council decides to do so. **Lanelle Fabian** said they have discussed it at Main Street Beaufort. They have gotten a price on them, but they need to decide who to offer them to, etc. She said they will keep moving forward on them. Mr. Baker said they get at least 10 calls a day from merchants for Park Beaufort to bring quarters.

Mr. Baker said they have had to convert the batteries for the old meters because the meters are no made, or the parts for them, and "they're slowly failing." They can also generate reports on usage and revenue with these new meters. Councilman McFee asked if the new meters would allow for the online extension of time with a mobile phone. Mr. Baker said yes, they would. There's a cost to the individual user who signs up for a program.

Councilman Sutton said Main Street Beaufort should take the lead to develop a Main Street Beaufort con that they can figure out how to distribute once they have them. Mr. Baker explained that if they know in the beginning that they want the meters to accept tokens, Park Beaufort should know that at the beginning so that they can program the meters now instead of upgrading later.

Councilman Sutton said merchants need to be responsible for the parking turnover downtown. He described how the tokens might be used by locals and tourists. Councilman O'Kelley clarified the fitting of the current test meters for tokens. **Matt Taylor**, Lanier area supervisor, said those can be upgraded wirelessly to accept the tokens. Ms. Fabian said they need to decide who could purchase the tokens, and how much would they purchase them for. Councilman Sutton said they "can work out the business of the tokens."

Mayor Keyserling asked about the token program for the Trask lot, and Ms. Fabian said it's going well. They broker tokens and sell several each week. They buy new batches of tokens to sell every three weeks; the main purchasers are restaurant employees, the Art Association, and those at the Atelier. They first sold them just to members of Main Street Beaufort, but now they sell to employees as well.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the library had ever brokered the coins for Main Street Beaufort. Ms. Fabian said Main Street Beaufort could talk to the library about that. Some stores come to buy them, Ms. Fabian said, and sell them back to employees, and some employees come to buy them on their own. Councilman McFee reiterated that the meters would accept these tokens, and Mr. Baker said yes. Mr. Baker said there will be individual meters, one at each space.

Kathy Todd said the fund for Park Beaufort is at \$200,000 in cash, but the contract requires \$25,000 per year for renovations. The quotes are for \$30,000 and \$44,000, and there's

sufficient revenue in the reserve to cover upgraded meters for all of Bay Street. Mayor Keyserling asked if there was a benefit to doing more meters at a time. Mr. Baker said no matter how many they get, they get a \$100 per meter discount. Mr. Dadson said "it's time to replace meters."

Councilman McFee asked if it wouldn't be prudent to put them in some in other locations besides the downtown core. Mr. Baker said they could run a test, but he'd only put them on Craven Street in front of the Visitors' Center. They should use Carteret Street, Charles Street, the front of Scott Street if they want to put them elsewhere. They could then move them if there's a consensus via feedback. There was general agreement among council to buy the higher number of upgraded meters. Mr. Baker said the newest generation is coming out soon and will be the same price, so they can have the most current technology available.

Mayor Keyserling said the Civic Master Plan has always assumed that the Trask lot would be the only appropriate place for a parking deck, were one to happen, but that might not happen, so he suggested people consider alternatives for surface parking. He wondered why they didn't run parking on Bay Street all the way to Church Street. Some not-for-profits might make accessible their lots that are only used on Sundays and for funerals. There's also a question of improving a lot near his office. He said that an editorial in the newspaper had suggested that they need to consider where to have parking if the parking deck doesn't happen.

SCDOT STREET PAVING SCHEDULE

Isaiah Smalls said the concern was about paving on Bay, Charles and North Streets. Two months ago they attended a meeting but dates weren't set, and 3 weeks ago, there was a meeting about the mast arm, but those dates also weren't set. They suggested that the paving be done before the mast arms. Mr. Smalls discussed the dates for the work. There's concern about night work, the amount of noise it will generate, and the cost. The asphalt plant would have to be paid at night to provide the asphalt. The contractor wants to start at 7:30 a.m. If they delay the project "we will suffer the cost for delaying it," Mr. Smalls said, in regard to the streets and the mast arms. In regard to street closures, they want to lessen the impact as much as possible and close the streets in sections but it will be a total closure of those sections. Delivery services for businesses downtown and Waste Pro will be spoken with about adjusting their deliveries.

Councilman Sutton asked how they will handle the three blocks of Bay Street. Mr. Smalls said the contractor said the most critical time is when they are resurfacing. The milling machine makes a lot of dust. It will be "a work in progress," and "they will do their best to accommodate everyone."

Mr. Baker said he would "go store to store tomorrow to discuss the plans" with merchants. They will need to change parking passes temporarily because of pushing people out to the library and marina lots. Councilman Sutton suggested "leaving the library alone." Encouraging people to go there would be problematic, he feels.

Councilman McFee said the churches would probably let people use their lots for this week of paving. He said they won't enter into an agreement, but they would likely do it for a week. **Nan Sutton** asked if "Bay Street would be closed all day for five days." Mr. Smalls said the contractor feels he can do it in less than five days, but five is the worst case scenario. The minimum will be three days. The milling and paving machines, Mr. Smalls said, mean that they don't want any cars around. Ms. Fabian said this should be clarified in the handout to merchants.

Mr. Smalls said they had just had the meeting and wanted to let council know what was proposed, so now they would refine the message. Ms. Fabian asked if it could be restriped to angled parking, and she was told by multiple people that that was not possible.

Mayor Keyserling asked how the state prioritizes these streets for work. Mr. Smalls said these are federal funds and federal highways: "There's a pot of money for it." They have requested that Mink Point be put on the CTC, Mr. Smalls said, and they're still working on getting it prioritized, "but that's a different pot of money." Mr. Dadson said they would modify the press release now that council has been informed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, and Section 70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law, **Councilman Sutton made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel, contractual agreements, and receipt of legal advice. The motion passed unanimously.**

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to come out of Executive Session and resume the work session. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling and council members Donnie Ann Beer, Mike Sutton, Mike McFee, and George O'Kelley.

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

Mayor Keyserling called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Councilwoman Beer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Keyserling.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting July 9, 2013 were presented to council for review.

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilwoman Beer, to approve the minutes as submitted. Mayor Keyserling abstained from voting because he was not present at the meeting. **The motion passed 4-0.**

ORDINANCE REVISING PART 3, CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, "PARKS"

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on second reading. Councilman O'Kelley said that the matter of people who smoke policing their own cigarette butts had been discussed at a previous meeting. People have told Councilman O'Kelley, he said, that there shouldn't be smoking in the parks because there are a lot of butts around the swings, etc. He said he's heard no one in support of smoking in the parks but has heard opposition to it. **Libby Anderson** said the cigarette butts are considered debris, so you can smoke, but you have to dispose of the waste. Councilman Sutton said if and when the county buys in, or Port Royal, and *they* ban smoking in parks, the City of Beaufort might be able to ban smoking in the parks *and* be able to enforce it. Councilman Sutton pointed out that cigarette butts had been highlighted in the ordinance as debris. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE REVISING SECTION 6.6.F.1 OF THE UDO, "OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF MERCHANDISE"

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the ordinance on second reading. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman O'Kelley pointed out that the Honda and Vaden dealerships both "have landscaping that's really coming along."

ORDINANCE ANNEXING A PORTION OF A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13 INLET ROAD ON LADY'S ISLAND

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

ORDINANCE REZONING A PORTION OF A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13 INLET ROAD ON LADY'S ISLAND GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

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

ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF INLET ROAD ON LADY'S ISLAND

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

ORDINANCE ZONING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF INLET ROAD ON LADY'S ISLAND GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

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

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS CONVEYING TITLE TO INLET ROAD TO PUBLIX SUPERMARKETS, INC.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Ms. Anderson said the city had requested that the Inlet Road right-of-way be removed from the state highway system and it now is owned by the City of Beaufort. It will be used as part of the Publix development. An ordinance is necessary, and it's up for council's consideration. Councilman O'Kelley asked **David Tedder** if everyone who needs to be on board was on board, and Mr. Tedder said that they were and explained that everyone would have access to their property. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REQUEST FOR USE OF THE BOAT RAMP AT THE DOWNTOWN MARINA FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF BEAUFORT TO HOST BAPTISM

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the request for the October 6, 2013 event. The motion passed unanimously.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT FOR SHRIMP FESTIVAL 2013

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the request for the October 4 and 5, 2013 event. Councilman McFee asked which streets would be closed, and **Ivette Burgess** said it's for the race and would be the same closures as for previous races. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REQUEST TO CONSIDER PAID PARKING END AT 5PM ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilwoman Beer, to approve the request. Ms. Fabian said for the last few months Main Street Beaufort has been working with the merchants to stay open later on the third Thursday to encourage locals to come downtown to shop. Locals have said that they don't feel they should have to pay to park, Ms. Fabian said, so they might come downtown to shop if they are given this opportunity to park free at this time and it can get extra business into the businesses that are staying open later. Mayor Keyserling said he has "sympathy, empathy and support for the Main Street merchants," but if they were

to approve this, he foresees hearing complaints from people that they thought it was a different Thursday that it was free. He said if something's changed and an exception is made, "it opens it up to confusion and criticism."

Councilman Sutton said that council works with Main Street Beaufort, but he "can't support changing for one hour on one day a month for a lot of reasons." He fears that as soon as they offer free parking, an issue will be that downtown workers "will then flock to Bay Street to park." The Thursday slot should be the day to give tokens, Councilman Sutton feels. A local shopper "would not complain if they got a \$1 token for shopping downtown."

Councilman McFee said Main Street Beaufort would have a hard time getting the word out and marketing the event and the free parking for that hour. People, including visitors, would not understand it, he feels. It's not about cost, he said, but the group "should do more analysis on how to make it more inclusive." He feels people will forget about the Third Thursday. He agrees that the token is "a real, tangible 'thank you' to the merchants' customers."

Councilwoman Beer said she feels the same way. Councilman O'Kelley said until they have an overall plan to keep employees from parking downtown, they need to continue to educate about it. Mayor Keyserling asked how many downtown merchants were open on Sundays, when parking is free. Ms. Fabian said that the last time they surveyed, about 50% of downtown merchants were open on Sundays. Councilman McFee said he's curious about a current number of stores that are open for business on Sundays, and Ms. Fabian said she would get updated numbers. **The motion failed to pass with a vote of 0-5.**

REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT TO ALLOW USE OF PUBLIC SPACES FOR DOWNTOWN PLATE CRAWL EVENT SLATED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2013

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, to approve the request. Ms. Fabian said the only public space she needs for the event is in front of the clock for a table to sell tickets to the tasting. Stores will be open and participants can get wine and water and be able to walk down to the next tasting. The tastings will be between 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and then the winners would be announced at the Arsenal. Councilman Sutton said this sounds like a request for open containers for alcohol. Ms. Burgess said the police chief hasn't weighed in on it yet. Mr. Dadson said the city usually handles that approval. Ms. Burgess said the chief's answer would be that this event would be no different than the Art Walk. Councilman McFee said it will all be curtailed by 8 p.m. Ms. Burgess said yes, and there will be eight different stations set up. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REQUEST FROM SC ART AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR USE OF THE WATERFRONT PARK PAVILION FOR ARTIST BAZAAR EVENT

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the request for the October 18, 2013 event. Bonnie Hargrove said this conference has been planned for a year, and there will be 200 arts educators coming to Beaufort for three days. She said she had come before council on behalf of the South Carolina Arts Education Association to ask for the city's co-sponsorship. Mayor Keyserling said "this is one of the greatest opportunities for USCB

to market” itself with art teachers coming to see the campus and the city and making their students aware of it.

Councilman Sutton said he wanted to ensure that such a co-sponsorship meets the criteria for one, since they are raising funds. Ms. Hargrove said they are selling their own work to promote themselves; it’s not a fundraiser, “just an opportunity,” she said. It will get all the art teachers downtown shopping, eating, etc. Ms. Hargrove said that “economically, there are no barriers to participation.” Councilman Sutton said he will support it, but he wanted to raise the notion so that if another group, like golfers, for example, want to use the park and sell grips and request the city’s co-sponsorship, they might cite this co-sponsorship as a precedent. “This means we’re waiving fees for the park,” Councilman Sutton said. Councilwoman Beer said “it’s not a fundraiser, though.”

Councilman McFee said this is not a for-profit organization. Ms. Hargrove said she understands the concern, but this gives an opportunity for the teachers to promote themselves as artists, “and no one may even sell anything.” Councilman Sutton said the checklist is possibly incorrect in that this not-for-profit is not hosting a fundraiser, and they can allow co-sponsorship in this case. Mayor Keyserling said “it’s worth being an exception.” **The motion passed unanimously.**

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling said that he suspects all council members “have gotten calls that the F-35 is coming next Tuesday.” He also asked for everyone’s thoughts on behalf of Officer Cushman.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilwoman Beer said the 9/11 memorial service will be at Waterfront Park at 8:30 a.m. The Red Cross, fire department, police department, and some veterans’ organizations will be there

Councilman Sutton said he wants “to get back on track about the mooring field” and asked that it “be kept in the conversation.” He said they haven’t dwelled on how to get rid of the existing mooring field as the new one is put in place. Mr. Dadson said the rearrangement of monies has been approved and they’re awaiting the grant agreement to be sent from the state.

Mayor Keyserling thanked Councilman Sutton for his work putting up the buoys for Dragon Boat Beaufort at Water Festival. Councilman Sutton said they had learned by doing this that there was a time when there was only 4’ of water by the bridge where people crab and fish. The water is now over 15’ deep all along the sea wall and then falls off at the marina. This is the largest sandbar in years in the river, Councilman Sutton said, and “it is a changing, moving entity.” The cruise ships should have no problem with mooring at either end. The old bridge abutments are also still there, he said.

Councilman McFee said he’d gone to the Municipal Association meeting, and towns like Traveler’s Rest and Greer have increased population and business. “There’s a synergy in the upper part of the state,” Councilman Sutton said, and Beaufort County can also attain such economic diversity with the advent of the industrial park, for example.

Mayor Keyserling said the date of August 28 is set, he believes, for another announcement of a company coming to 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 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK