

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 27, 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**

Mayor Pro Tem Donnie Beer called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS**

**Henrietta Goode** and **Alan Dechovitz** expressed their interest in being reappointed to the Redevelopment Commission. **Michele Knoll**, **David Easton**, and **Richardson LaBruce** were interviewed for the HDRB and possibly other open board positions.

### **ORDINANCE LANGUAGE CHANGE TO TREE BOARD MAKEUP**

**Barb Farior** said there is confusion as to the current ordinance, which she read to council. She reviewed the current terms of each of the members of the Tree Board and said that all of the board members would like to continue to serve on it. It’s difficult to find others as qualified to be on the Tree Board, but currently, **Liza Hill** can call one of the certified arborists for advice, and they’ll give that free of charge. Ms. Farior went on to enumerate some of the Tree Board’s accomplishments, including helping with the undergrounding of power lines. Because the Tree Board is an advisory group, Ms. Farior said she would like to request that they not have terms limits. Councilman O’Kelley asked if it would work if council removed the two-term limit in the ordinance to accomplish what Ms. Farior is seeking. He said he’s reluctant to remove term limits. Mayor Keyserling said term limits are also good to have as in the case with the Redevelopment Commission.

Councilman Sutton suggested making the Tree Board an ad hoc committee. Councilman O’Kelley said if they don’t limit terms, it will accomplish the same thing. Ms. Hill said prior to this current board, she has never had anyone fulfill a three-year term. **Eddie Rodgers** said the state legislature does a two-year term or until the member resigns. **John Dickerson** said they could allow the council to extend the terms if someone wants to stay on. Councilman O’Kelley said they would have to come back and do the process. Mr. Dadson suggested still having terms, so council and future councils could have a chance to talk to board members as their terms come up, but they need not have a stopping point for terms. Mayor Keyserling said he believes council would like to figure out a way to work this to keep the current members of the Tree Board and staff can work out options to accomplish that. Councilman O’Kelley said, term limits also allow council to dismiss people who don’t come to meetings but don’t resign. Ms. Farior said her board is great, and she would need to be reinstated as well.

Mayor Keyserling said the OLT is working with the City of Beaufort and is looking at the parks. He asked Ms. Farior to consider making the Tree Board for “Trees and Parks.” He asked if

broadening the mission would be a good thing or would take them away from the direction the Tree Board is going. Ms. Farrior said Mr. Dadson had brought it up several months ago, and they'd discussed it. The board members work full-time, and for them it's difficult to give more time to address the parks. Ms. Farrior said she could do it, but it would be difficult for them to find more time. She said perhaps if the board were larger, she would be willing to consider it. Mr. Dadson said staff would present something for council in September for consideration.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, 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 7:02 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 27, 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 7:04 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Beer led the invocation. Mayor Keyserling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the work session and regular meeting August 13, 2013 were presented to council for review. On page 3, in the fifth paragraph, Councilman O’Kelley asked that “fitting” n reference to the coin slots on parking meters should be “accepting,” and added that it should be clarified that this is for the test meters. Councilman Sutton said the word “cons” in the paragraph above that should be should be coins. **Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the ordinance on second reading.** Councilman O’Kelley said he had spoken with **David Tedder**, and the state has relinquished everything to the City of Beaufort. **Bill Harvey** said the City of Beaufort has “quick claim” to the property. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED MILLAGE RATE FOR FY 2014**

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the resolution.** **Kathy Todd** said that on June 25, council had adopted the budget ordinance. In Section 1, there was a provision to modify the millage rate following the release of the assessment numbers. The millage in the budget ordinance was based on March 26 estimates from the tax assessor before the final numbers were done and certified by the state. Ms. Todd said during the budget process, council approved the methodology for those rates. The purpose for this amendment, Ms. Todd showed on the overhead projector “where we are assessment-wise.” She showed the estimated values used for adoption of the budget--values based on reassessment and the change in values. The table- assessed value decreased. The numbers were less than what was anticipated; growth remained the same. The levy for 2012 dropped; there were \$87,000 in appeals. The effect, Ms. Todd said, is minimal in terms of the revenues in the budget ordinance vs. with the adjusted mill. The revenue that is anticipated to be generated is “pretty much revenue neutral” under the assessment numbers vs. the estimated mill. Ms. Todd said she feels “confident that the composition of the data includes all of our properties.”

Council is being given two options, Ms. Todd said. One will modify the mill rate. The City of Beaufort has to provide the adopted ordinance on the mill rate by mid-September. This resolution will approve the adopted mill rate, and the second option will postpone that and re-address it on September 10.

Councilman O'Kelley asked what Ms. Todd recommends. Mr. Dadson said staff recommended that council adopt the resolution now with those rates. Ms. Todd said appeals will cause the amount to "evolve over time," and they "may never see that number in full value."

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion to accept the modifications, second by Councilman O'Kelley.** Mayor Keyserling asked the operations and debt mills; Ms. Todd said it was 45 for operations and 60.62%. Mayor Keyserling said now it's 66.61%. Ms. Todd said "that should get us to where we are in the budget." Councilman Sutton said to Mr. Dadson that there's a graph which had 10-20 years of city millage rates; Ms. Todd said ten years are in the in the CAFIR. Councilman Sutton said it would be good to have those rates "to reflect on" and compare for discussion purposes to determine if the city is growing or not.

Ms. Todd said she can share information on a district-to-district point; TIF2 increased, for example. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The total value of the city went down \$176,000, Mayor Keyserling said, and Councilman Sutton said the numbers of properties affected are small. Mr. Dadson said they didn't decrease as much as they thought compared to this time last year. Also, the growth is where the city is investing its dollars, and they have seen an increase. It's an investment strategy in the TIF districts. Lady's Island district was the one that fell the most; that's commercial, mostly, or empty, Mr. Dadson said, and that's where the value fell the most; it fell beyond the mean aggregate for the county. Ms. Todd said the overall decrease is \$1.6 million in taxable assessed value. Mr. Dadson said council needs to know that they rolled the rate forward, as required by law, then added CPI value and debt millage.

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton to approve the request for the September 26-29, 2013 event.** Mr. Dadson said they went out to bid for "engineer on retainer services" for use on projects on a case-by-case basis, especially in stormwater and other projects. It's called "an indefinite contract," he said, but it's for a 3-year contract with Ward and Edwards. This firm is "very good," Mr. Dadson said, and it's the consensus of staff that this is who they wanted to enter into contract with. The city attorney has reviewed it and approved. The figures are locked in by budget, and "if we never use them, we don't pay them." He said the city has needed an engineering firm on retainer for some time "to get things done." Council is approving giving the city manager the authority to enter into the contract, not the dollar amount of a contract. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**REQUEST FROM FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR USE OF THE WATERFRONT PARK PAVILLION FOR THE ANNUAL LIBRARY BOOK SALE EVENT**

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee to approve the request. Mayor Keyserling said last week there was a discussion in council about an arts group selling things at the park. Councilman McFee noted that the Friends are selling used books, and they had indicated on their application that they were not selling retail. Councilman Sutton asked if “this drives home the point that there are entities that council DOES want to sell things in a co-sponsorship.” Councilman McFee said it’s not the same with for-profits and not-for-profits. Councilman Sutton said there will be a not-for-profit one day that wants to sell something in the Waterfront Park that council doesn't want to be sold. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Keyserling reminded everyone that there would be announcement the next day about a new company in Beaufort.

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman O’Kelley said there are happy people downtown because of the change in the dates of the paving.

Councilwoman Beer reminded everyone about the 9/11 service at 8:30 a.m. on September 11, 2013.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, and Section 70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law, **Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to enter into Executive Session again to resume the discussion of personnel and contractual agreements. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before City Council, **Councilwoman Beer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Sutton. The motion was approved unanimously,** and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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