

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 10, 2014 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 McFee, Mike Sutton, 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 Keyserling called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF HORSE COMPANY ISSUES

Chief **Matt Clancy** said there are 2 reported incidents of the same horse falling over, first in March, when he was pulled until an equine vet examined him and gave written certification that he was good to go back in service; that was done. At the April semi-annual physical, done by the owners’ vets, shots were given and all the horses passed inspection. Then the same horse fell again, a week ago Friday. The police were notified Sunday, and the horse came back to work. On Monday, Officer **Hope Able** told **Walter Gay**, the owner of the Sea Island Carriage Company, that his horse couldn’t work until he was certified. Per the ordinance, the horse was examined when he fell the first time, and an exam was pending after the second fall.

Chief Clancy said the police do not have jurisdiction on the horses’ quarters because the farms aren’t in the city, so Officer Able called Beaufort County Animal Control, and they did a written report on both locations. Officer Able got another certification that the horse (Merlin) is OK to work. The vet couldn’t make the meeting but was available by phone, Chief Clancy said.

The issue is if the city should pay for another vet. Per the ordinance, Chief Clancy said, if the city thinks a complaint is valid, they can request that another vet look at a horse. The police would be looking for a trend or a reason to believe that the vet’s opinion is not valid, which they don’t have. They have complaints on one carriage company from the other carriage company and vice versa. The last citizen complaint was at the end of 2013 in regard to a horse stopping in The Point.

Chief Clancy feels this issue has to do with the companies’ competitiveness; in regard to the fallen horse, he doesn't feel they need to get another vet’s opinion. Mr. Dadson asked him if an appeal had been made to TMAC in regard to the ordinance. Chief Clancy said there are other options for complaints before coming to council. He can decide to pull a horse, but that wasn’t done in this case, and neither was TMAC noticed. Officer Able said there is a TMAC meeting tomorrow at 8 AM, but this complaint is not on the agenda. Councilman O’Kelley asked if Chief Clancy and TMAC should have been notified

before council was. Chief Clancy said that's correct. He can make the decision to stop a horse from working, and the only way to override his decision is to appeal to the city manager in writing within 7 days.

Mayor Keyserling said he heard from Chief Clancy's summary that the horse fell on a Friday, but it wasn't reported until Sunday. Chief Clancy said that, as in the past, there is an allegation now from the other carriage company. Mayor Keyserling said the companies don't file complaints at the volume they did at one time, though. Chief Clancy said there are some more minor complaints like the condition of horseshoes or manure. Councilman O'Kelley said the falling horse matter wouldn't go before a judge. This is a safety issue. Councilman O'Kelley said the complaint should have been made to Officer Able and thereby to Chief Clancy, but instead council heard about it at a council meeting.

Chief Clancy said again that Mr. Gay's vet was available by phone. The vet had told Officer Able that the horse was cleared, and he knew no specific reason the horse fell, but as of his exam, the horse is healthy enough to work. Chief Clancy said the results of the county animal control inspection of both stables were in council's packets. He said there appear to be no issues with the horses' housing.

Councilman O'Kelley said there's never been a diagnosis as to why the horse fell either time. Mayor Keyserling said his first instinct is ensuring public safety, for instance if there's any chance the horse could fall when a child pets it. He thinks it still sounds inconclusive. He's not sure how council is to judge except to look at the ordinance to see if it needs to be strengthened or possibly other measures taken. The horse falling is a clear danger that no one wants, Mayor Keyserling said. The vets say the horses are well cared for, and there's no problem with the Merlin.

Chief Clancy said the two times the horse fell are the only *documented* times. Councilman Sutton asked Mr. Gay how many times his horse had fallen down. Mr. Gay said "one time." "No one knows anything" about the supposed first time he fell, according to Mr. Gay. He recalled that there was a time that drivers from both companies saw the horse close his eyes and drop his head while he was on the route. They took him off the street, they have drawn blood, and the results are "perfectly clear," Mr. Gay said. A horse in the pen named Barney "aggravates" Merlin, so Merlin was sleep deprived. He said people in Suthern Rose had witnessed this, too. In the incident under discussion, Merlin stood for an hour after his tour, fell asleep, and fell down. Mr. Gay said his vet said Merlin's healthy. They have pulled hair follicles to determine if there is any muscular problem. It's \$470 every time blood is drawn, Mr. Gay added, and "he is clear."

Councilman Sutton said there's a police department report for March 11 in council's packet, and Mr. Gay was interviewed in both. A *farrier* said the horse was fine, not the

vet, and the police officers said Mr. Gay had to take the horse to the vet. Mr. Gay said he recalled an incident where Merlin *didn't* fall, but he was walking with his head down. Mr. Gay said that they have no record of a first fall. Councilman O'Kelley said the report said that Mr. Gay had said Merlin had fallen asleep and fell at the water trough on March 11. The report is dated March 12.

Councilman Sutton said on the report on the March 11 incident, the vet said he didn't know what happened but thought maybe the horse tripped on a harness; he was not in Beaufort and didn't see the horse. Mr. Gay said they have called university equine hospitals and asked if they have ever heard of this, and one vet speculated that the horse was comfortable and fell asleep then fell down. Mr. Gay said there are "thousands of documents" and some videos online of horses falling asleep standing up. He described a few and said "this is costing (him) a lot of money." Councilman Sutton said that sleep deprivation is plausible, and that problem can be solved. If it's dealt with, that's fine. Mr. Gay said they had added salt to Merlin's food and moved his stall, "and he's fine."

Mayor Keyserling said they know the process, and it seems to have been followed, but he doesn't know if it's really been followed. Councilman Sutton said if there's a significant report of an incident, the horse should be pulled and should go to a vet.

Councilman Sutton reviewed some of the other issues that have been brought up, including horseshoes. He said a farrier was called. Mr. Dadson said the ordinance is silent on horseshoes. Chief Clancy said it doesn't say if you have to have them or not, but there was a report for one who had lost one. Councilman Sutton said in regard to the process, "it's related to who's reporting it." He knows "how one company reports another." A judge has told them to stop bickering, but the public doesn't know to file a report about a horse. People on the tour route may know the process and that there's an ordinance. Mr. Dadson said that they had a lot of reports from the public a few years ago; they have in the past known to file a report.

Councilman Sutton asked how many times the tour companies have been in front of the judge in the last six months. Chief Clancy said there's one pending about someone not holding the reins properly. Councilman Sutton asked about other citations. Chief Clancy said he knew of one spill, and they were told to go and clean it up. Chief Clancy said until March when Merlin fell, everything was quiet.

Mayor Keyserling said in **Peter White's** report, there are allegations of the horse falling 4 times. Chief Clancy said they don't like to deal with unsubstantiated allegations. Mayor Keyserling said he understands, but he is trying to determine if this is an operators' dispute or a public safety issue. Mayor Keyserling said maybe the owner should report if a horse falls, rather than another party, which would hold them accountable. Mr. Dadson said TMAC could look into it. Councilman Sutton said he doesn't think TMAC is

responsible for enforcement or to convene and hear complaints at this level. Mayor Keyserling said it's a policy issue. He said if it sounds as if something is missing in the ordinance, it could be that the operator must report an incident, which could be a policy issue for TMAC, but that doesn't answer the enforcement issue. Councilman Sutton said the onus is on the owners to protect and to prove or disprove any complaints. He said either right now "it's a perfect world," or the process is such that no one can file a complaint.

Officer Able told council that if a complainant doesn't show up to represent their claim, then no ticket is written. Councilman Sutton said that's no good, because if a different operator calls in a pile of manure than the one whose company dropped it, then the officer won't write a ticket because the accused won't show up.

Heather Winch said the clean up has improved significantly except when they don't power wash. There are generally no other problems except when there's no monitoring on a weekend and then cleanup gets passed over. She calls Officer Able, who has someone go out and clean it up. Councilwoman Beer asked, with phones everywhere, why no pictures were taken of Merlin falling.

Mr. White said no complaints were reported in the last 6 months, but in Officer Able's last TMAC report, there were 4 or 5, and Suthern Rose made them all. In the last 6 months, there were "more times than (he) can count" when he had called Officer Able about manure and urine that were left but the drivers didn't tell Mr. Gay, and many occasions when shoes were missing when horses arrived for work, and he would tell Officer Able, just for the information. He is "sick and tired of having to call and make complaints." He said the officers should do a trip to the waterfront in the morning to check in and drive the route to check things out.

Chief Clancy said there was only one citation given; "that doesn't cover the complaints." Mayor Keyserling said Mr. White was suggesting that "the police department should be more present." Mr. White said Officer Able used to drive the route in the morning and see how things were. Officer Carter would walk the route in the morning. The first tour goes out around 10 AM, and the officer could observe the horses going out that day and then drive the route in the middle of the day, plus a check in later. Mr. White said that there is a part of the ordinance that dictates that the manure should be picked up, and Officer Able could look at the route in the middle of the day to ensure that was happening. Mr. White said they don't want their company's reputation to be hurt by the health of the horses of another company.

Mayor Keyserling said Mr. White seems to think the problems and the reason for his letter are because the city isn't doing the job it used to and should doing in terms of checking in and riding the route a couple times a day. Mr. Gay said Officer Able "does a tremendous job." She calls Mr. Gay if there is any complaint. The drivers at both

companies don't always mark urine or manure, and the owners have to go out and look. He said the Whites are "obsessed" with finding something wrong with his company. Sunday, the company didn't run, but Mr. White "stayed down at the waterfront all day and reported things." Mr. Gay said Mr. White complained about a horse with no shoe. It wasn't limping, he looked at it, and the horse was fine. Mr. Gay said, "All the Whites do is look for problems" with his company. There are probably 20 complaints a day. He admitted that the shoe was off to the 2 officers who came down. He has a farrier on staff who came down to the waterfront and shod the horse. "If the people in The Point have a problem with anyone, it's not with me," Mr. Gay said. He described how he has worked on a site where a horse has peed a lot of times in the same place. He cleans midday, and "if you don't, in the heat, it smells bad." He reiterated that he is "annoyed by their constant reports." Mr. Gay said Officer Able is doing her job, "a helluva good job."

Councilman Sutton asked how many of the complaints they get are investigated by the tour coordinator; those are incident reports. Chief Clancy said if they could potentially get a ticket, there's a case number issued. Councilman Sutton asked if other complaints "are written off because of who made it." Chief Clancy said if it is unverifiable after the fact, "it's done as a CD entry."

Officer Able said 95% of complaints come from company owners. If she hears a shoe is off, and the horse isn't distressed and it's taken care of in a timely manner, the ordinance doesn't let her do anything. She can't issue a ticket for a missed stain, but she calls the company owner. She doesn't get issues like the companies disputing that they had missed a spot. They are cooperative and understand that they need to rectify it.

Councilman Sutton said she is "managing it case-by-case." Officer Able said her goal is not to write citations. Councilman Sutton said not writing the tickets is not the answer, because at some point the companies will need to go before a judge. He said they have an environment now where the companies have to call something in to get Officer Able to manage it. Officer Able said with the ordinance, most of the areas they discussed are fine, and with the animal falling over, if it's cleared by a vet, there's no citation to write. If they miss one spill, there's no citation to write. When the horse loses a shoe, if they don't get it re-shod, she could write a ticket, but if a farrier is called, there's no citation to write.

Councilman Sutton said after the horse fell, he was ready for work, according to Mr. Gay; police were told well after the fact. Chief Clancy said a different driver took Merlin down to work on Sunday, not Mr. Gay. Officer Able said when she got the report, it was after the horse had worked on Sunday, and she wouldn't let him work Monday. When there's a situation, Councilman Sutton said, if the tour coordinator doesn't work weekends, he advises people to call the police department and ensure that a written police report is made, so they get a case number so that they know a complaint was

made. In this case, 2 days after the horse fell, it still reported for duty.

Chief Clancy said when the fall was reported on Sunday, which was the day Merlin worked. Another officer observed Merlin and didn't stop him from working, Officer Able said that was because "there was no evidence of a problem" with the horse. Councilman Sutton said if all involved know about a problem, someone has to receive a document about the incident, and it seems like no one did, which raises concern that it might happen again. He felt before that the ordinance addressed that, and "that this was being followed to the T." He said they will have incidents, and missing horseshoes don't bother him, as long as the animal isn't injured.

Mayor Keyserling said once the incident was reported, the horse didn't work. Officer Able said the horse didn't run on Monday, but the incident was reported after it happened; there was a delay in reporting because the horse did not seem distressed. When Officer Able came in Monday, she told Mr. Gay not to bring the horse into work. Mr. Gay said the horse was taken off the street on Friday, when the incident happened; the vet came and gave clearance for the following day, but he didn't work anymore on Friday. Officer Able called him on Monday and said she needed a written statement, so he left Merlin home. Dr. Carter was supposed to send a fax to Officer Able about Merlin being cleared to work, but Officer Able still didn't have it on Tuesday. Mr. Gay "sent a different buggy out," not one pulled by Merlin. Officer Able still didn't have the fax, so he called Dr. Carter again. Eventually, Officer Able got the fax, but it was 7 minutes after they had told people they couldn't go on a tour, and they were refunded their money. Mr. Gay said he "had authorization and did what (he) was told." Merlin stood at the trough until Officer Able got the paperwork she needed.

Councilman Sutton said his concern is that it happened over the weekend, so "the operator assumed there was no problem." A police officer came, looked the horse over, and "instantly knew" that there was no problem but should have said, "You can't run a horse without a vet certification." Mr. Dadson asked how the officer would have known that "instantly." Mr. Dadson asked, if the complaint is from the day before, and the horse "looks fine," how would the officer know that there could be a problem? Councilman Sutton said it's a fact that the horse fell, and maybe not for the first time.

Chief Clancy said the vet gave verbal clearance by Sunday, which is why Mr. Gay brought the horse downtown. The police officer looked at that and reported it to Officer Able, and she said they needed it in writing. Councilman Sutton said that according to the police report, "The farrier said it was OK, not the vet." Councilman Sutton said the responding police officer said that, "Mr. Gay reluctantly agreed and argued the horse was fine." Mr. Gay said his farrier had checked the horse and declared him to be OK. Mr. Gay said that he had told the police officer that the vet came in and checked the horse and said it was OK. Councilman Sutton said that's not in the police report. Councilman O'Kelley said Mr. Gay is quoted in the report in regard to the first incident of Merlin

falling, so it happened. Mr. Gay said it might have, but he doesn't remember it.

Councilman Sutton said they haven't had "Buggy Wars" in months, and he doesn't want to go back to them. Mayor Keyserling said they are getting more proactive with having a trained officer, when she's working, and there are fewer incidents. Councilman Sutton said the tour coordinator is not a full-time job. Councilman Sutton asked how many collateral duties Officer Able had besides tour coordinator. She said "a few." Councilman Sutton said with the slot rotations, he had thought they would have a more full-time tour coordinator; they once had a civilian in that role. Mr. Dadson said that was before 2005. Councilman Sutton said he would like it to be tightened up. The tour coordinator is experienced, but she may hand it off at some point, and they need to make sure the process is good.

Councilman O'Kelley said maybe they should consider a full-time officer for downtown, including the carriages. "There are a lot of incidents downtown besides the horses," he feels, such as bikes and skateboards on sidewalks and engine revving, and "there's not a police officer downtown all the time." Councilman O'Kelley said he's there all day long, and he "never sees an officer on the street." Chief Clancy said they don't walk: they "stay in the car because they have a lot of ground to cover." Councilman O'Kelley said they could park and walk downtown, and then get back in the car. He thinks "a uniform on the street would help." Councilwoman Beer asked who would pay for it. Councilman Sutton said Mr. Dadson should give a breakdown of the slot fees, and then Councilman Sutton can answer her question. They knew they lost a police presence downtown when the parking went to private hands. Councilman Sutton said he had seen 2 officers downtown in the early evening recently. They do a good job, he feels, but "we could use that presence." He understands the cost issue.

Mr. Dadson said downtown doesn't have very many incidents compared to other districts. Councilman Sutton said they should talk about the tour coordinator position, though, because incidents will continue to happen. Councilman Sutton said since the carriage companies are a bid process, council would solve a lot of problems if there were only one company downtown. "This type of activity will always be part of that riddle," he feels. Councilwoman Beer said they "could do away with it," which they have said they would do if the wars started up again. Councilman Sutton said he believes there is a problem with process. Officer Able does a great job, but the intervention doesn't get it past the point of "OK, sorry." Councilwoman Beer said these are "all the same babysitting issues they have always had," and she doesn't feel as a taxpayer that she should have to pay to babysit the carriage companies.

Councilman Sutton said the horse falling was called into him, and he thinks it's significant. He asked Mr. Dadson to look into a private third-party vet. Councilwoman Beer said, "The people who cause the problem should pay for it." Councilman Sutton said they don't need to have the companies forcing their hand. They need more

proactivity, and a third party vet could check the facilities without notice. If animal control went out, the companies had weeks to prepare because they knew they might come because of these incidents, and a spot-check should be completely random. When the temperature rises, that's when he feels the best times would be.

Mr. White said in regard to calling in a third-party vet, Charleston does that. Beaufort County Animal Control was at his farm, and he said the inspector didn't know what kind of horses he was looking at. He said that they need someone who knows horses to look at them. Some enforcement seems simple, and in the ordinance it says horses need to be shod for street use. Mr. White said if the horse is run without a shoe, they should get a ticket, and then companies wouldn't run horses without shoes anymore, with the threat of a \$250 ticket. If the police officer sees manure in the morning, that means it wasn't picked up the day before, and then Mr. White has to be the one who calls t in, and he looks as if he is attacking the other company. He only wants the horses to be healthy and the streets clean, he said. Mr. Dadson said Officer Able could bring up the third-party vet and some other policy issues at TMAC.

Councilman O'Kelley said it's not just a question of if the horse is shod. There are "gray areas." If a horse loses a shoe on a tour, that shouldn't be a ticket justification, as long as they pull the horse until it's shod. Councilman Sutton said they also spoke in the past about the third party cleanup operation, which would solve problems, too. Mr. Dadson said they really debated that at one point. Staff can look at that. Councilman O'Kelley said the carriage companies could bear the cost. Councilman Sutton said cleanup issues need to be dealt with, and a third party with a contract could propose it and TMAC could make it part of the policy. Mayor Keyserling said they will send this to TMAC and wait and hear. Councilwoman Beer said, "As long as the city doesn't pay for it."

Councilman McFee said safety is paramount and he thinks the policies have to be maintained and reported, and they must get written responses from the vets, not just verbal. Mayor Keyserling said his biggest concern is public safety with a horse falling. The other stuff is a new element in the conversation, in his memory, and harder to solve. They "can solve the street stuff." A third party contractor can do that, and it "will eliminate the he said-he said." Officer Able will know who to call in, and it won't be a matter of whose horse did what, which is the public's biggest concern: that it gets taken care of. Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Gay and Mr. White to try to keep their horses from falling. Councilwoman Beer said "and take a picture of it if it happens."

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 for the purpose of discussion of personnel, receipt of legal advice, and discussion of pending contractual matters. The motion passed unanimously.**

The work session was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 10, 2014 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 McFee, Mike Sutton, 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.

Councilman O'Kelley made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to close the ES and enter the regular council session. The motion passed unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ISSUES DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Keyserling said following negotiations with and new information from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, there would be a meeting with the person from the state who is "the guiding light" on changes to reapportioning and redistricting. They will be invited and this will hopefully take place in a timely manner, he said.

Councilman McFee made a motion to authorize the city manager to enter into meetings with low-voltage carriers to bury lines in the duct bank at no cost to citizens. Councilman Sutton seconded. Bill Harvey said that the city has been dealing with the issue of the low-voltage providers on Boundary Street power lines, and the issue was debated at the last council meeting. They have reached agreement with Hargray and Century Link. There is money in the construction budget, the terms of which will be explained in a press release tomorrow; Hargray and Century Link will absorb most of the costs and will not pass them on to customers or ratepayers in the City of Beaufort city limits. They will finalize the terms tomorrow and make the agreements public. Mayor Keyserling said the finalizing has to do with a municipal process versus a corporate process; the latter needs notice if the former is to publically disclose details, which must occur. **Lolita Huckaby** asked if Hargray and Century Link have agreed to the resolution. Mr. Harvey said, "We have reached a resolution, and they have agreed to it." **The motion passed unanimously.**

Councilman Sutton commended the low-voltage providers "for coming to the table." **Councilman McFee made a motion to amend the attachment in regard to SE&G that was passed at the last meeting. Councilwoman Beer seconded the motion.** Mr. Harvey said that when they adopted the 3 ordinances on this matter, Mr. Harvey had said that

changing the 7% district-wide special district to a citywide special franchise fee district would require “tweaking.” He has the final draft of the tweaked version and will make it available to the press and public. The tweaked version references the 2% citywide franchise fee to pay for SCE&G’s reimbursement for the \$3 million cost to relocate the duct bank. The NSS funds are the default option if the franchise fee funds are insufficient for some reason, though they are confident that they will be sufficient. He recommended that this be attached to the official agreement. It does not change it substantively at all, Mr. Harvey said.

John Dickerson asked if the franchise fee would terminate as soon as the full funding is complete, and Councilman McFee said yes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Stocks asked if the city or the state were responsible for King, Prince, and other streets. Mayor Keyserling said it’s the state. He asked if Mr. Stocks was asking because of “the machine that damaged the street.” Mr. Stocks said it’s a waste of taxpayer money because they only paved half the block, and it’s going to be cut into. He said, “Whoever authorized it should be canned.” Mayor Keyserling said it’s the state, and the City of Beaufort is rarely, if ever, notified when SCDOT does work.

Mr. Stocks said he talked to the contractor, who did a good job, but he said that it happens all the time, that the left hand doesn’t know what the right is doing. He said they do the lane striping, and then it gets ripped up “all the time.” He said again that it’s a waste of money. Mayor Keyserling said everyone who’s been following this issue feels that the state is not an easy partner to deal with, and they use third party contractors, too.

Councilman McFee said this reflects on the solvency of the SCDOT. Mayor Keyserling said he got a call about damages at Prince and Scott, when they brought in the machine, and the surface needs to be patched. Councilman Sutton said, “Maybe a nice article could be written” about the redundancy of painting lines and then tearing up the street. Council has no control over it, and “are sitting and watching it,” like Mr. Stocks is. The process does not seem manageable.

James Watson Jr. had asked Councilwoman Beer to read a poem about the Waterfront Park, so she did.

Linda Britton, 3030 Federal Street, said she went to the post office and saw some of the street lines were orange and not yellow. There was a brief discussion as to what that might be about.

Ms. Britton said the carriage horse, Merlin, had fallen down; she had read about it in the paper. She said he came to town from Disney World and had been retired. She’s

watched him become older and get in worse shape. Some months ago, Ms. Britton was near him at a stop in the street, and she saw his feet “were in terrible condition” with “nails sticking out ragged” and needed to be worked on. She said she’d asked the driver if he knew that his horse’s feet were in terrible condition, and he said he did but couldn’t do anything about it, so Ms. Britton called Officer Able to tell her. Officer Able said she would definitely look into it, and a week later, Merlin’s feet were better. She said she’s watched him get thinner and rub his hair off. She said the horses don’t get out a lot and are dirty (with “the red company”) and they don’t take care of their horses well. She said the horse’s fall might have been from the old age, and he should have another vet look at him. It would be bad publicity for the town if something happened again.

Merlin should be turned out to pasture, Ms. Britton feels. She said he shouldn’t be on the road if he’s falling down, “no matter what any vet says.” Ms. Britton said he was “magnificent” but “he could be a little dangerous.” She said the owners should take care of their horses, or it won’t reflect well on the town. Mayor Keyserling said Merlin’s vet signed off on it; he is able to work. Mayor Keyserling said they got another opinion today. Ms. Britton said he fell twice and can hurt himself and others, and “it looks bad for the city.” She said it’s not normal for a horse to do that. If he was by his carriage, sometimes they stand and sleep, but when they fall down on the pavement if they’re sleeping, she still thinks he should be off the road. Mayor Keyserling said they would discuss it at TMAC tomorrow morning at 8:00. He said he would love for Ms. Britton to go to that meeting. They will be asked to look and see if the City of Beaufort should be doing more. Ms. Britton said in this case, that might be an avenue to do more. She said she’d come to the meeting.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes of the council’s work session and regular meeting May 13, 2014. The motion to accept the minutes as submitted was approved unanimously. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the minutes of the council’s work session May 20, 2014. The motion to accept the minutes as submitted was approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes of the council’s special meeting May 22, 2014. Councilman O’Kelley abstained from voting because he was not present at the meeting. The motion to accept the minutes as submitted was approved 4-0.

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilwoman Beer, to approve the minutes of the council’s work session and regular meeting May 27, 2014. The motion

to accept the minutes as submitted was approved unanimously.

FY 2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE

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

DEFICIT MIL ORDINANCE

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on second reading. Mayor Keyserling said the state has a cap for what they can do with taxes, and he explained the millage rollback. He said with the property values decreasing, they would roll back instead of roll up, as was done last year. The county's *estimate* of values, once they reconciled reality with their models, the values fell shorter than anticipated, so the millage increase enacted last year was not enough to keep the city revenue neutral. The City of Beaufort is allowed to raise the millage 3.72, but only for this year to make up in part for the past year's shortfall and the projected shortfall this year. The city's growth in value is 1%, and this is a long-term problem, which is why they are trying to push for growth: in order to raise property values. He reiterated that this is a one-time increase. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE REVISING SECTIONS 2.7.F AND 3.21 OF THE UDO PERTAINING TO HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW PROCESS, TO IMPLEMENT THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES ORDINANCE

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilwoman Beer, to approve the ordinance on second reading. Mayor Keyserling said this would freeze the tax assessment, as an incentive to rehabilitate houses, on restorations that are qualified. They are hoping the company and the school district will do the same thing. He encouraged people to talk to the school board. The incentive will be 4 times greater "if they are on board." **The motion passed unanimously.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dadson said he was absent last week and told where he was: at a City Manager's Association continuing education session, which he said was "a once in a lifetime process" for which he was on the waiting list for 3 years.

REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Sutton said he looks forward to more updates on the mooring field. Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Dadson if he knew anything. Mr. Dadson said he had no update, and he knows they need more information. He will let council know as soon as he does.

There being no further business to come before council, **Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously,** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.