

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on November 18, 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, 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.

Phil Cromer and **Stephen Murray** were invited to the table.

UPDATE ON CITY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Bill Prokop, Human Resources, offered an overview of staff’s efforts to improve customer service to the community. He presented a plan of action. He reviewed staff’s goals including customer service shortcomings, staff culture, improving the phone system, and getting information out to residents. They collected telephone data, Mr. Prokop said, and he broke down the types of calls they received during the period that they did the data collection.

They also did an online survey; 150 were completed, which is less than 2% of Beaufort’s population. 80% of those surveyed didn't attend more than 1 city meeting per year. Most people (51%) get their information about the city from the newspaper. He said the city needs to have good two-way communication with the media. In regard to the website, Mr. Prokop broke down what people said was best and worst about it. Recommendations to improve it included a better search function and updated information; department heads are committed to updating the information weekly.

In regard to improving customer service among staff, 41% of those in the survey feel the service is already good. He shared some of the survey recommendations for improving it. A training program will start this week, Mr. Prokop said. He went on to highlight what those surveyed felt the most important issues were in the city. Very few respondents were under 50, he said; 38 were 50 – 59 and 78 were 60 – 69.

Mr. Prokop said that there needs to be clear communication throughout the city with various organizations, not just in city hall. 32% never attend council meetings and most others attend less than once a year.

Mr. Prokop enumerated the improvements that will be made to customer service, including timely phone answering, website improvements, customer service training, and joining the Alliance for Innovation. He said the fire department and police programs were some of the best communications the city does. He said it’s necessary to take the city’s story to the community through social and other media and a presentation that can be taken to various groups.

Councilman Sutton said that the data seems “dead on,” based on his experience. He said the web site is and will always be evolving. He suggested offering direct connections to each council member on the website, so someone reading the site can call a council member while they’re reading about an issue they want to speak to them about. He said that way, someone can talk directly to policymakers and get correct information. Councilman O’Kelley said he was glad to see that “folks feel welcome” and that the city government seems to be transparent. In regard to people calling the city when they’re looking for Waste Pro, he feels that people *should* call the city about their garbage issues.

Mr. Murray said he would like to see the city broaden its demographic, and he’s curious if the newspaper’s demographic is also older (40-80 year olds). Mayor Keyserling said he feels that a mail or Internet survey involves “only those people who are already engaged.”

RESULTS OF PARKING RFP’S

Kathy Todd said that the RFP was released on August 31 for procurement of parking services, the Lanier contract being set to expire after 5 years. Five sealed proposals were received. Each provided details for cost of service for each of the 5 years of the contract. October 3, they were opened publicly and read aloud. She described the evaluation committee and the financial breakdown in the proposals, then the process for evaluation. 4 of 5 were determined to be the best-qualified prior to presentations made October 31. The committee recommends SP+ Municipal Services as the lowest responsible bidder for parking management and enforcement services, and she went on to detail why the choice was made.

Ms. Todd showed a comparison of bringing parking services back in-house to outsourcing it. The greatest “pro,” she said, is that there is no management fee. In regard to “cons”, no in-house personnel are experienced and so people would need to be hired and trained. They would need software and staff trained to use it, as well as a strategic plan and a web site for paying tickets and to give people information; personnel would have to be trained to repair and maintain meters.

Ms. Todd said SP+ is a national company and their closest office is in Cummings, Georgia. Councilman Sutton asked about the costs of getting software, and Ms. Todd said that was included in the costs that she had cited. The software and equipment would be about \$20,000 a year. **Tony Royal** asked if the city had talked to people in Charleston and Savannah about how those cities handle similar problems with parking. Councilman O’Kelley said the city employees do it in those cities. Ms. Todd said gross revenues are \$455,000 a year. The city’s net is \$150-170,000. **Charles Aimar** said that locals avoid downtown because they “refuse to pay to come downtown to park”; his store will close, as will “at least 10 others” if the parking plan is not changed. He suggested that the businesses that are open at night “could pay the revenues,” while those businesses open only during the daytime, “that have carried the burden for years” would have “relief.” **Ginger Aimar** said that people in businesses that she had spoken with that day had recalled how business had once been “booming” in the past; few people were out today, though, and she said she has heard that people “got mad” about getting parking, or felt it was too big of a hassle to park downtown. She said, “People won’t chance a \$10 ticket,”

though when parking tickets were \$3, it was “no big deal.” Ms. Aimar feels the higher fine “makes people mad, and they won’t come downtown,” which hurts businesses’ revenue. Downtown is the “best advertisement for Lady’s Island there could be,” she believes. They will have to lease their building to a bar, she and Mr. Aimar agreed. The city is “not enticing locals ... to shop without having to pay a fee.”

Mayor Keyserling asked the Aimars if they felt that if there were a lot a block away that cost half as much if that would help business downtown. Mr. Aimar said it’s the \$10 ticket that’s the problem, and people who get them telling other people about it. Councilman O’Kelley said he and **Edie Rodgers** had tried to stop the \$10 ticket. Ms. Rodgers said she had also fought the idea of parking being outsourced. Councilman O’Kelley said if parking is not about getting revenue, the city could reduce the amount of the fine for parking violations. Mr. Aimar said he and his wife are “major stakeholders” in the city because they live in town and have a business downtown.

Mayor Keyserling said prior to changing the fines, there used to be a line of people (most of them downtown employees) who would park downtown all day, get tickets, and then pay their \$3 tickets 5 at a time. Mr. Royal suggested a graduated fine of \$5 for the first violation that then goes up from there for subsequent offenses.

Ms. Todd gave some information about SP+, including other cities and towns in which they operate; they have 443 facilities in hundreds of cities and airports. They have “quite an extensive experience and background.” Councilman Sutton and Ms. Todd discussed how the management fee was determined and how the numbers were obtained. Mayor Keyserling asked for a comparison of in-house parking management and SP+. Ms. Todd said the same number of personnel would be needed, and compared the direct labor costs for a parking enforcement person who was not a police officer, for example. She said the other numbers were obtained using the categories SP+ had given, and then she had provided numbers for the city.

Councilman O’Kelley said SP+ should be informed that council might decide that the ticket price would be 50% less, which would affect the numbers on which SP+ made their bid. Councilman Sutton said parking was not managed 5 years ago. He feels that the city should not get back into the parking management business, and “this plan is working.” In regard to the fine, the original presentation to council was that it should be \$15, but they chose to make it \$10, and “it works.” He said the \$3 fine was too low.

Ms. Aimar said that the first presentation in the work session was on the perception of city government, and the city wants to be perceived as friendly. This is “a huge public relations thing”; she stated that more than the 8% who mentioned parking as a concern in the survey are concerned about it. Beaufort is a small town and not like the big cities that SP+ services, she added.

Mr. Murray said he would feel uncomfortable entering into a contract with SP+ if the revenues

might change. Council needs to determine if the fee structure will change before entering into this contract. Mayor Keyserling said he'd be surprised if they have a revised plan in 6 months, based on past experience with the parking issue. A shorter-term contract might be the answer in this case. Mr. Cromer said that Lanier is at the end of its contract, and the city is just now getting bids for a new parking management company; he asked why they were doing this "at the last minute." Mr. Dadson said that they have been talking about it for 6 months; council had readjusted rates when the plan was first implemented. Council and the RDC were the same body when this started, he added. This is a parking management issue, he said, and managing the system is dependent on a 15% turnover.

Mr. Royal said he "strongly disagrees" with SP+ giving 1% of revenues to the charity of the city's choice, which they had said in their bid they would do for the community. He said he doesn't "like that sort of thing ... it's distasteful to me," and he would "rather see them make a more competitive bid" than "do this feel-good thing."

Councilman Sutton said the business owners would need to manage parking if there were no meters. Mr. Royal said it should be fair and friendly, according to the Aimars, and he thinks they should talk to Savannah, which has 2 hours of free parking on Broughton and a parking garage. Mayor Keyserling said it's not comparable because Savannah has SCAD. Mr. Aimar said they should extend parking to nighttime. Mr. Dadson said originally they had planned to extend it to 8 or 9 because the majority of revenue comes in after 5 pm. Mr. Aimar said they should give the daytime merchants a break. Ms. Aimar said it appears that the city is trying to raise money with parking, not to regulate it. "Everyone's going everywhere else but downtown Beaufort," she stated; she believes that having paid parking on Bay Street means "the 3 blocks of merchants ... are being charged a tax."

Ms. Todd said **Bill Harvey**, city attorney, had said that the city could not extend the current contract with Lanier because the city ordinance restricts multi-year contracts to no more than 5 years, at which point the city is required to rebid the services. Mayor Keyserling said council needs "to have more conversation on this issue." He hears that everyone agrees that parking "needs to be managed," though. Councilman Sutton said he feels they need to act on the contract. If the gross revenues are what drives the contract, and maybe they could put in an "out" if it's not viable for them. Councilman O'Kelley said if they lock this in at \$10 a ticket, the contract can't be changed, and they "need a safety valve for the city and these folks" (indicating the Aimars and Mr. Royal). Mayor Keyserling said that Ms. Todd would talk to SP+, inform them of this possibility, and ask them how that would affect their bid.

There was a discussion about the month-to-month extension and the legality of continuing that extension. Ms. Todd said the extension language suggested by Lanier and Mr. Harvey is that the term of the contract is for approximately 5 years, and service continues until the RFP period is ended and the new contract commences, unless something else is mutually agreed to.

Mayor Keyserling said they need to direct staff, and he recommends another work session after Ms. Todd talks to SP+. There was general agreement that that was a good idea.

UPDATE ON FIRE STATION RFP PROCESS

Ms. Todd said that on June 23, they received 5 sealed proposals from companies that she listed. September 25, the bidders provided bid documents and attended a required meeting. Four bids were received. October 29 they were opened publicly. She reviewed the bid amounts and the members of the committee. Fraser Construction was recommended as the lowest responsible bidder. The city manager will work with them on value engineering, and a firmer number in regard to cost will be known then. Council can then vote on approval of the bidder. Mr. Dadson said the committee spoke to all of the bidders to obtain further information. The amount of time to complete the project was also a factor in the committee's decision, not just the cost.

Councilman Sutton said when they started this process, he did not expect to spend \$3 million, and he has concerns that the building is "more than what we need." This is a "\$600,000 difference in what you perceived the costs would be" and what they are. Mr. Dadson said in their conversations, they "can value engineer good savings into the process," and the costs will be more in line with what Councilman Sutton expected. The process started 8 years ago, and that was very different circumstances. There are other site costs besides just the building, such as the drainage system and the two streets. Ms. Todd said after the value engineering, they can bring a budget forward where those costs are broken out. She said there is no contract being entered into. Ms. Rodgers asked if all of these bidders were local or regional, and Mayor Keyserling said yes.

MCAS JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS) RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES PRIORITIZATION

Mayor Keyserling said he had asked for this to be in the agenda because the Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee is being asked "how to proceed." This "will have significant impact on Beaufort," and he wants direction. **Libby Anderson** said that the consultant asked the JLUS committee to prioritize. She said that she had a presentation if Mayor Keyserling preferred that. Mayor Keyserling said they are "not being asked to vote on the contours now," but "the process will accelerate," and he wants council to be involved in the issue now that they will encounter down the road. Ms. Anderson said the committee wants to know which elements should be included in the plan. To prioritize, she said, meant considering questions such as, Should it be done immediately? For how many years? How important is each issue to you?

Ms. Anderson presented the recommendations and issues on the work sheet. There was a discussion about the Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee – when it was, attendance on the committee, etc. Mr. Dadson asked how many pages of these issues there were, and Ms. Anderson said 6 pages. Mr. Dadson said he wanted to ensure that council understood that there was a lot of information to prioritize. Ms. Anderson reviewed the points (e.g., the memorandum of understanding).

Mayor Keyserling said when the city adopted the ordinance that created the common AICUZ, he felt there might have been pushback; he said this in response to Councilman McFee's contention that there was none, so Councilman McFee clarified what he had meant. **Robert**

Semmler said in regard to a binding and a non-binding memorandum of understanding, he doesn't "see an MOU happening." He said the AICUZ is coming. In regard to the way the areas to which the city's growth boundaries go are utilized by the city, if they are overlaid, and the city can't build, this could be detrimental to future growth. He reiterated that he does not think a memorandum of understanding is going to happen.

The elements of "monitoring impacts" and "evaluating needs" were further discussed, but there was insufficient time left in the work session to continue the discussion.

The work session was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on November 18, 2014 at 7:00 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 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Beer led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION OF NOVEMBER 29, 2014 TO BE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the proclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION OF NOVEMBER AS ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS MONTH

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

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE REVISING THE MARSH GARDENS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Keyserling opened this public hearing. Ms. Anderson said that originally, this PUD was approved for a hotel, a meeting center, commercial development and 24 residential units, and now 303 Associates is applying to amend the PUD: they are seeking to delete the meeting center, add more residential units (for a total of 60, not including upper level residential units), revise the master plan to reflect these changes, and clarify the term “mixed use” to clarify that it includes upper story residential. Staff recommends approval; residential uses are “appropriate,” and the Burnside Building has residential on its top floor. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the plans for the Marsh Gardens PUD. Councilman O’Kelley asked how they would do 60 units on 3 acres, and **Courtney Worrell** said they would be multi-family units. **Mayor Keyserling closed this public hearing.**

MINUTES

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes of council’s work session October 21, 2014. Councilman O’Kelley said that he would abstain from voting because he was not present at the meeting. **The motion to accept the minutes as submitted was approved 4-0.**

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes of council’s work session and regular meeting October 28, 2014. Councilman McFee pointed out that on page 11, the motions in regard to zoning on Highway 170 were said in the minutes to

have passed unanimously, but he was recused, so the votes were not unanimous. Additionally, he pointed out that the Redevelopment Commission was hosting workshops about Boundary Street, not Councilman McFee. **The motion to accept the minutes as amended was approved unanimously.**

ORDINANCE REVISING ARTICLE 7 OF THE UDO TO REQUIRE SILT FENCING DURING NEW CONSTRUCTION

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

ORDINANCE REVISING SECTION 6.8 OF THE UDO, "BOUNDARY STREET REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT"

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

FY 2015 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the budget amendment on first reading. Ms. Todd said this is an amendment to the FY2015 budget. In regard to the end of the parking management contract – there's an allocation to Main Street Beaufort for \$40,000 + 15% of net revenues after other expenses were satisfied. This amendment would allow the city to continue to give Main Street Beaufort its same amount (as they would receive if the contract were to have continued through June 30). Ms. Todd presented historic data on the amount that Main Street Beaufort has received. The budget amount "to maintain the status quo" with Main Street Beaufort is \$52,524.

BUDGET PRESENTATION BY MAIN STREET BEAUFORT

LaNelle Fabian said that Main Street Beaufort appreciates the recommendation for this amount, but she would like to ask for an increase. She showed a page from their consultants' recommendations as to what the public and private sectors can do to make Beaufort a better place. The group would like to have marketing materials to offer to those seeking "market-based retail opportunities" and they would like to have a campaign to have events to bring locals downtown ("growing the local market"). Other projects include extending the visitor experience by extending downtown offerings, with the goal of capturing more visitor dollars, as well as the wayfinding signs project.

Mayor Keyserling said they are concerned about reducing redundancy, and Ms. Fabian asked **Blakely Williams** if the Chamber of Commerce has reciprocal agreements with the Chamber in Hilton Head. Ms. Fabian said that Main Street Beaufort is able to "approach tourists in a different way about taking a day trip to Beaufort." Ms. Fabian said they have received the same amount for many years and would like an additional \$10,000 so they can take action on the report they received.

Councilman O'Kelley said there had just been a long discussion about parking and what might be done to change the fines, which would affect revenues. If council were to change that by

cutting fines, it would affect Main Street Beaufort, so he has “serious reservations” about giving an increase. Councilman Sutton said he echoed Councilman O’Kelley’s concerns. He thinks that “looking to parking as a funding stream” in the long term is “challenging,” given that they are considering changing things, and they don’t have a contract yet. Councilman McFee said this is to be a line item for a stopgap protection for Main Street Beaufort, and the commitment to Main Street Beaufort is the same, but council needs “to look at what can be done to ensure that we can do what needs to be done.”

Mayor Keyserling said that there has not been a contract for parking management for 2 months, and then the discussion of a new contract had “brought up a new element,” so whether there will be money/revenues for additional funding to Main Street Beaufort is unknown. Mayor Keyserling iterated the history of the “Main Street” area; he said that council is obligated to keep Main Street Beaufort going. The additional \$10,000 isn't the issue; the issue is how far out council wants to commit to the funding of Main Street Beaufort “while the conversation continues about parking and revenue.” Ms. Fabian said the organization will be 30 years old, and “we are doing our job.” The consultants’ study discusses infill and utilizing partners to get it done. She feels they are “ready to partner with the city, the private sector, and other organizations to get things done.”

Ms. Todd said the amendment is meant “to equalize everything” as if the contract for parking management were in place. Mayor Keyserling said there could be variables, and this is essentially a new contract; he asked the likelihood that these variables would be felt. A discussion ensued about the continuation of financial support to Main Street Beaufort. Mayor Keyserling said there might be “another six months to a year of parking conversation,” and parking funds Main Street Beaufort, so council can’t commit money it doesn’t have. They could do a memorandum of understanding, he suggested, but this puts Main Street Beaufort “in an awkward position in regard to cash flow.”

Councilman O’Kelley made a motion, second by Councilwoman Beer, to table this conversation and direct Ms. Todd and staff to draft a memorandum of understanding. The motion failed on a vote of 3-2, Councilman O’Kelley and Councilwoman Beer in favor. The original motion passed 4-1, Councilman O’Kelley opposed.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BURTON PROPERTIES / FIRST CAROLINA CORPORATION DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Ms. Anderson said the city had received a request to amend the development agreement to permit the rezoning of parcels on Robert Smalls Parkway from General Commercial to Highway Commercial. The existing development agreement locks in the General Commercial standards. The property owners want to change the zoning so the development agreement needs to be changed to rezone small parcels and the frontage of some parcels on Robert Smalls Parkway. This would also allow the development of townhouses on certain properties, which staff feels is appropriate.

Councilman McFee clarified that what they were voting on were changes to the master plan, not the zoning, which is already set up, and the discussion of which will come before council at another time. This unlocks the development agreement to allow the rezoning to occur.

Ms. Rodgers said public in attendance would like “to see the pretty pictures” of the proposed changes. Mayor Keyserling said this is about the development agreement and authorizing the city manager to modify the agreement. Councilman Sutton said, “No vertical anything is being proposed to my knowledge.” **David Tedder** showed a map of the parcels affected. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 9-1010 TO RENDER UNLAWFUL THE DISCHARGE OF CROSSBOWS AND BOW AND ARROWS WITHIN THE CITY

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Police Chief **Matt Clancy** said it’s already technically illegal to use bows and arrows in the city because they’re projectiles, but recently it’s been shown that the ordinance in this regard is “not clear enough.” People have called about hunting, Chief Clancy said, including an incident in the Islands of Beaufort where a hunting arrow was found in a tree, so they want to clarify this point. Councilman O’Kelley asked about slingshots, and Chief Clancy said he thinks that because they launch a projectile, they would be covered by the ordinance as well, but they won’t be pursuing kids with plastic bows and arrows, for example.

Councilman Sutton said he wouldn’t support this because Chief Clancy had said that this is “clarifying,” and there are already laws on the books in regard to this. He thinks this is “over-governance,” and Councilman O’Kelley agreed, saying he would vote with Councilman Sutton against over-governance. Councilman McFee said he had assumed that there was something in the ordinance that required this for clarity, but he thinks now maybe “this is overkilling.”

Mr. Dadson said the clerk of court has seen that this aspect of the ordinance is not clear enough, and this clarifies that which people question because there is not an explicit statement “This is a more specific statement,” he said. **The motion passed 3-2, Councilman Sutton and Councilman O’Kelley opposed.**

David Tedder said, “Everything has an impact,” and he feels that an alternative needs to be offered, so he had shown Mayor Keyserling an ordinance earlier that day that would provide more leeway, allowing people to shoot a bow and error in their backyards, so long as the arrow remains within the area of that backyard.

ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 8-1008 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO USE OF HANDHELD ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Councilman O’Kelley made a motion to amend the fourth “Whereas” by removing “is unnecessary and confusing” and replacing those words with “is redundant.” Mayor Keyserling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The original motion passed unanimously. Mayor Keyserling explained that a state law had rendered the local ordinance redundant. When asked if the state law includes texting, Mr. Dadson said it covers “all distracted driving.”

ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE ELECTRIC AND GAS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEAUFORT AND SCE&G FOR A PERIOD OF 30 YEARS COMMENCING 2014

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Mr. Dadson said SCE&G has “language issues” with this agreement; a reference to accrued rights was removed. SCE&G doesn't believe there are any accrued rights; after legal discussion, accrued rights were taken out, and “the city attorney doesn't believe this is a substantial change to anything,” Mr. Dadson said. This is a language clarification to something council had already passed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-2002 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE TO PLACE OBLIGATIONS UPON PROPERTY OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS WITHIN THE CITY

Councilman Sutton made a motion to table the matter, seconded by Councilman McFee. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman Sutton said this needs to be vetted in a work session before it comes to council, though he “fully support(s) this.” Mr. Dadson said they “put it in first reading mode” knowing council “would want to workshop it in the future.” He explained that council had missed a work session meeting that they would have ordinarily had. Mayor Keyserling explained the issue to the public in attendance.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING COMPASSION AS AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Sutton, to adopt the resolution. Councilman O'Kelley said he had “had a question about this when it came up,” and he had spoken with Mayor Keyserling about it. He thinks this “is a warm and fuzzy Kumbaya thing that we don't need ... it's stuff the city ought not be into.” Councilman Sutton said he agrees with Councilman O'Kelley but finds no harm in the resolution. Councilman McFee said church and state should be separate, but sometimes “people need to be reminded to be warm and fuzzy.” Mayor Keyserling said this was his idea; it recognizes this group but obligates the city to nothing. This puts it in the record that the city supports this. **The motion passed 4-1, Councilman O'Kelley opposed.**

Ms. Rodgers said that this matter has “something a little politically correct to it,” and she asked if one “would be penalized for not being compassionate.” Mayor Keyserling shared an anecdote to demonstrate why he favors a policy of compassion and people's response to that.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling asked for a report on the project manager and when they could expect that. Mr. Dadson said it should be within a week.

REPORTS BY COUNCIL

Councilman O'Kelley said the newspaper has had articles about development in Whitehall, and “303 Associates is building condo-type homes”; these are indications of an economic upturn.

He feels the city has been complacent during the recession, and he thinks that maybe traffic should be looked at again – in regard to road widening, changing the downtown-Lady’s Island bridge, etc. Mayor Keyserling suggested that the county might do updates that would help in the conversation.

Councilman Sutton said he would like a mooring field update. It “is doing a fantastic job capturing people coming in,” he feels, and there are more boats moored there now, though it still needs work.

Ms. Williams said the Chamber of Commerce is working with *Sail* magazine to bring 30 boats to dock at the marina. The demographics of the magazine’s readers include a household income of \$225,000 or more a year. She also announced the Chamber of Commerce’s legislative reception.

There being no further business to come before council, **Councilman O’Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McFee seconded. The motion passed unanimously,** and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.