

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on October 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Council members Mike McFee, George O’Kelley, Stephen Murray, and Phil Cromer, and City Manager Bill Prokop.

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.

PRESENTATION: TICK TOCK PARK EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Collin Durham, said for his Eagle Scout project, he met with **Liza Hill**, who helped him with a plan to develop Tick Tock Park. There is a damaged section of fence, and he will replace it with a new, “live” fence that will cover the wire. He described the materials and how the fence would be built. Mayor Keyserling said it’s a wonderful project. Councilman O’Kelley asked about a photo for clarification of what the fence would look like. Mr. Durham said he expects it will be covered with jasmine.

Councilman Murray thanked him, as did Councilman Cromer. Mayor Keyserling said everyone should thank the Boy Scouts for their recent projects, which are “unlike anything I have seen before” and exemplify what he’d like to see in civic engagement. Mr. Prokop thanked him as well. Councilman O’Kelley asked if council had to approve the project. **Stephen Durham**, Collin’s father, said this is a proposal for Collin to start the project; he has to obtain various approvals and now can present this to his scoutmaster. **Ivette Burgess** said, from this point, “it’s in Liza’s hands.”

DISCUSSION OF EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS FOR TOURISM MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TMAC)

Charlie Williams said in regard to membership and attendance requirements, “every member’s term has expired.” Some would like to continue, and others do not want to seek reappointment. He feels they need to start the process of recruiting new members.

Mayor Keyserling asked, if there were no TMAC, and if it were to be started up from scratch, what would its purpose be? He described the history of the committee and issues with which it has dealt. He feels they should focus on council’s expectations and what the ordinances’ requirements are for TMAC.

Mr. Williams said the vision and mission statements are of major importance; “we definitely need to revisit that.” Mayor Keyserling said the South Carolina Cultural District needs an oversight commission, and he and Mr. Wells have discussed the need to organize the tours to make them grow. If people are interested in a wellness destination, for example, would this be the body that they could go to about developing that? Are there activities related to the Santa Elena Foundation? Maybe the move needs to be from management to advocacy. This could be

a board that helps tourism, rather than managing it, as it has in the past. Councilman O'Kelley said it could be a tourism *advisory* committee, rather than management.

Mr. Williams said since tourism is such a vital part of Beaufort's economy, he feels that someone needs to look at it, and do the detailed work that staff and council can't/don't do. The committee could make recommendations and bring to the attention of staff and council those tourism-related matters they find.

Mayor Keyserling said another option would be for TMAC to be a place that tourism-related businesses could go for advice. Mr. Williams agreed that they need to take a closer look at the committee, and he recommended that an ad hoc group be put together to determine what it is and work with staff to bring recommendations about TMAC to council.

Robb Wells joined the table. Councilman Cromer said he likes the idea of TMAC as Councilman O'Kelley had suggested. He thinks citizen involvement in tourism is important. Mr. Wells said, "There is a need at some level . . . to identify opportunities to nurture growth in tourism." Councilman Cromer said he wants citizen involvement because tourism has positive and negative affects on the local community, so it's important for them to have a voice in it, he feels, from a quality of life perspective. The cruise ship issue is big now, he said, for example. Having a sounding board or filter for citizens "is a good thing," and such a committee could make recommendations as well.

Councilman Murray said TMAC focuses on issues, and he sees them as being council's guidance. He finds the difficulty in getting a quorum together to be frustrating. He looks to Mr. Wells and the DMO for particular kinds of guidance. Councilman Murray said TDAC has a specific role, and maybe they could integrate with TMAC.

Mayor Keyserling said council would eventually have to take another look at short-term rentals, which currently go through the Zoning Board of Appeals; that happens if the property is in a residential district, Councilman Murray said. Mayor Keyserling said there are concerns about saturating a neighborhood, and maybe there should be quotas or areas where they cannot have more short-term rentals or any short-term rentals. "We have to protect the integrity of neighborhoods," Mayor Keyserling feels.

Councilman Murray asked if the talent the TMAC would have would be right for tackling short-term rentals. Mayor Keyserling said the Zoning Board of Appeals could also focus more on it. Mr. Wells said tourists "are drawn to the short-term rental experience." Councilman Murray said traditional hotel capacity is flat; Mr. Wells said, during "graduation nights," it's impossible to get a hotel room, and short-term rentals are becoming reasonably priced, so military families are drawn to that. Mr. Wells said the number of VRBOs has gone from 42 to 74. He agreed with Councilman Murray that this is not a problem from a hospitality perspective.

Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Williams if he was getting ideas. Councilman Cromer said he feels that TMAC is asking council for guidance so they can move forward. There are issues out there

that TMAC could potentially address. Its role needs to be defined so volunteers can know what they are getting into. Mr. Williams said he thinks he and 1 or 2 other current TMAC members could meet with staff, decide if the group is needed – and what it should be doing, *if* it is needed. Then they can deliver something to city council to vote on. They need to get past the point of “discussions.” Main Street Beaufort, the DMO, the Black Chamber of Commerce could also be added, Mayor Keyserling suggested, and have a roundtable to decide what needs to be done by TMAC.

Councilman Cromer said he feels the guidebook is “critical” because he has heard tours give out information that he knows is “fabricated.” Mayor Keyserling said there needs to be enforcement, too, after the test is given. Councilman Murray said there are people in local businesses who regularly meet visitors but “have no idea what we have to offer” in Beaufort. Mr. Williams said that was the idea behind the Beaufort Knowledge Seminar, which was to meet “the perceived need” that Councilman Murray had pointed out, which he agreed was a need.

Councilman Murray said the study guide “is the perfect project for TMAC to continue.” Mr. Williams said he agrees and knows that project will move ahead, regardless of what happens with TMAC. At least two members of TMAC will work with Mr. Williams on the study guide and keep to the schedule he had given council. If TMAC were to go away before it is finished, the study guide “would still go forward.”

Councilman Murray said he feels it’s agreed that the committee is needed, and the membership should be resolved. There was a general discussion of potential candidates for the committee. Councilman Cromer suggested that TMAC, the DMO, Main Street Beaufort, Black Chamber of Commerce, and staff should meet, and then council can add or subtract from what they come up with. Mr. Prokop suggested a method to clean up what they have and to make recommendations to council. He suggested that it might be broadened to meet community needs, not just tourism.

Mr. Williams said he agreed that this meeting that Mr. Prokop had proposed is the way he would like to see it go. Councilman Cromer suggested that council should be the first to take the tour guide test. Mayor Keyserling reiterated the next steps that had been discussed in regard to the test and the meeting to determine TMAC’s role. He suggested it might be the “Quality of Life Commission.”

DISCUSSION WITH MAIN STREET BEAUFORT ABOUT GOALS AND PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF YEAR

LaNelle Fabian offered “a recap of the last few months” at Main Street Beaufort. The wayfinding signs are up; “it looks good. Everybody loves it,” she said, and they are applying for a grant to be able to print a version of the directory. The board of directors decided to create teams:

Parking garage advocacy: they want to get it “on the ballot and . . . get it approved.” They met

with **Greg Darden**. **Kevin Cuppia** is the leader of the team and talked to Mr. Prokop about the RFQ, which is the next step.

Explore more economic gardening: work with businesses that are working to help themselves: staying open later, opening Sunday, etc. They want to do more, and “their successes can help convince others to do the same,” Ms. Fabian said. They have been interviewing those businesses and will be doing publicity about them to show that not all businesses close at 5 p.m. or are closed on Sunday.

Events analysis team: look at the events and make sure they are as efficient as possible – e.g., ArtWalk, First Friday. Are there business-oriented events that can lead to immediate sales? This team is analyzing and talking to the neighbors about these events. The Sunday sidewalk sale emerged from some of this analysis and was successful.

Accommodations Tax team: Where should the ad dollars they are awarded be placed? When they are awarded, the “wish list” will be part of the team’s next step. They want to look at local advertising dollars and move forward with that.

Local merchant meetings: These have had a lot of attendance in an open forum; business owners are ready to “work for the same goal,” Ms. Fabian said. She offered businesses updates at the meetings, and businesses also were able to meet and network.

Ms. Fabian said, in the last two weeks, they have added on efforts to make up revenues lost because of the cancelled Shrimp Festival. Businesses, rests, accommodations all lost revenues. Main Street Beaufort may be \$90,000 in the hole already. They will look at what they can do to try to make up for the loss, perhaps with several events. Ms. Fabian said they are planning to meet with city staff and may come to council soon to ask it to “think outside the box.”

Ms. Fabian said when the fiscal year began, they decided they didn’t want to do the farmers’ market anymore. They loaned signs and kept it on their website. The market is the only program that Main Street Beaufort has stopped so far, “with all we were faced with,” which she is proud of.

Councilman Murray said he particularly appreciates the group’s efforts at economic gardening. He thought the scavenger hunt was a great way to get people into stores that they might not ordinarily go into. He said he had he had recently bought some parking tokens for his employees through Main Street’s program, and he suggested more promotion of that program to business owners other than those downtown. Ms. Fabian said they get calls from residents about purchasing, but that is not possible right now.

Councilman Murray said the wayfinding signs “look awesome.” He would like to see that program extended, as Bluffton’s is on Highway 170, and he thinks Beaufort could have signs at Gardens Corner, for example. Ms. Fabian said once they learned that SCDOT wouldn't let them advertise on the signs, they turned in all the materials and got approval in a month.

Mr. Prokop said Park Beaufort and the city could share in a parking token program. Councilman McFee asked Ms. Fabian to inform council when the networking opportunities are available because he would like to attend. She said the “teams are filling up,” and someone had suggested a pajama party as a promotion. They are looking at Small Business Saturday, Ms. Fabian said, and will continue to promote it heavily, to the extent they’re able. They may sell the popular shopping bags they have given away in the past.

Mayor Keyserling said the Chamber of Commerce had started an economic gardening or business retention and expansion program. Councilman McFee asked if they cooperate with Main Street Beaufort. **Jason Ruhf**, the chamber’s business development manager, said, “Business retention and expansion would be more countywide.” Mr. Wells said they haven’t “gotten to that formalized stage.” Mayor Keyserling suggested there could be collaboration on that, to share resources.

Mayor Keyserling asked about membership. He said, “It’s easier to think about additional support over time if there are additional members.” He thinks the merchants should all be members; if they don’t belong or participate, why is Main Street Beaufort advertising for them?

DISCUSSION WITH BEAUFORT REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ABOUT COMMUNITY ROLE, GOALS, AND COLLABORATION

Mr. Wells said the Chamber of Commerce is working with South Carolina’s PRT team. The social media group is meeting with staff to find ways to show that Beaufort is “up and open for business.” The bad PR from the flooding has led to a multi-million dollar “hit,” Mr. Wells said, so they are contacting “our drive markets” to show that Beaufort is open; they are also giving away some accommodations. They are putting out “a pure buy that ‘Beaufort’s Fall is not lost.’” The numbers the first weekend of October – the peak season – dropped 50%. Mr. Wells said they would be moving dollars around and would “change some of the messaging.” The state is helping with these efforts. Mr. Wells said the Chamber is also working with Historic Beaufort Foundation to advertise the Fall Tour of Homes and to let people know that Beaufort’s signature events are still on.

Mayor Keyserling read the questions that had been given to the chamber to prepare for this meeting. Mr. Wells said the memorandum of understanding between the city and the DMO outlines the Chamber of Commerce’s separate checking accounts – it protects both entities because there’s no co-mingling of funds. Mr. Wells said the memorandum of understanding is not authorized yet. There is a working draft, Mayor Keyserling said, which not all of council has seen yet.

Mr. Wells said in regard to community development, the Chamber of Commerce “plays an active role”: it facilitates, such as when there was fear of a BRAC, and by working on tourism marketing with the Historic Beaufort Foundation, and with the Black Chamber of Commerce on marketing materials for Gullah Kinfolk Christmas; forums on offshore drilling, the LOST vs. penny capital improvements tax, etc.

Mr. Wells said they need to do a better job at getting the message out. The city manager gives the Chamber of Commerce ideas about what needs to be “put out there,” e.g., economic development issues, tourism marketing, and military enhancement. They receive public funding and need to supply information on a more regular basis, he said, to council and the city.

Councilman Murray asked the percentage of government to private funds for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wells said 60%–40% (government–private). MEC is separated. Councilman Murray said the Chamber of Commerce is successful where the government funds activities; tourism is the Chamber of Commerce’s “shining spot.” MEC has “served an active role,” but it’s 100% funded by the government. Mr. Wells said that’s probably right. Mayor Keyserling said it’s probably 98%.

Mr. Wells said the chamber’s membership base “continues to run strong.” Councilman Murray asked their business advocacy goals. Mr. Wells said they hear a lot about jobs, job creation, and sustaining the current quality of life. “That conversation has taken flight over the last several years,” he said: Do they do job recruitment or expand current infrastructure? As the chamber’s members push toward community development, “those issues come up.” They are beholden to their members, Mr. Wells said.

Mayor Keyserling asked, if the chamber is 60% funded by public dollars, “are you not subject to FOIA?” Councilman Murray said that’s been a subject of debate: is the chamber a city vendor? The Greenery is a city vendor, and takes government money, so are they subject to FOIA? Councilman O’Kelley said The Greenery is an independent contractor, per case law. Councilman Murray said the Hilton Head chamber is making the case in court that they are an independent contractor that receives public dollars, but they’re a nonprofit. Councilman O’Kelley said The Greenery gets paid to work. Mayor Keyserling said the Chamber of Commerce “is managing our money for us.” He wants to be prepared if this argument comes north of the Broad.

Councilman Murray said, on the leadership team at the chamber, he makes the argument that they are a membership-based nonprofit, and if they have nothing to hide, and are asked for documents, they should turn those documents over, even if the organization is not FOIA-able. Mayor Keyserling said he doesn’t want to see this chamber go through what other municipalities’ chambers are going through. This is part of why they are making this agreement through the memorandum of understanding. Mayor Keyserling said everything has been “exponentially better” with the Chamber of Commerce in many ways in the last three years, but he would like to see any loose ends that are there tied up.

Mr. Wells said public tax money “for the DMO work goes to the public . . . and its able to execute its job, and that’s clearly defined.” Mayor Keyserling said he has heard a lot about tourism and the DMO, but he hasn’t “heard what the chamber does for the community,” which is what council would like to know. He said Mr. Wells isn’t the right person to answer those questions; **Blakely Williams** is, but she is on vacation. Mayor Keyserling said the Chamber of Commerce comes to council for money for MEC, military appreciation, etc., and council is trying

to focus on economic development. Is the Chamber of Commerce's function, Mayor Keyserling asked, "just really the DMO? And if that is the case, are we working with the right model?" **Jim Wegmann** is the chamber's board chairman and could have come, Mayor Keyserling said. Mr. Wells said the interpretation of the email was that this was to be a DMO-related conversation. Mayor Keyserling said council knows and is happy with what the DMO does. The chamber came recently and endorsed the Spanish Moss Trail zoning change, it supported the day dock, and "I know there's more there."

Mr. Ruhf said the chamber is "heavily involved in the economic development conversation right now . . . countywide." The mayor asked Mr. Ruhf what he meant by "heavily involved" and "conversation." Mr. Ruhf listed various people from the county who are on the county committee. The Chamber of Commerce is the interim point of contact for the SC Department of Commerce, he said. Mr. Ruhf said the new board would be composed of business people from each municipality. They are working on by-laws, which are with the county attorney. Mayor Keyserling recommended the Economic Alliance bylaws. Mr. Ruhf said that's something the chamber is doing "for the region as a whole." Mayor Keyserling said each of the municipalities continues to have their own contacts; he had found out about the "point of contact" that morning. Mr. Ruhf said he thought it came up at the Redevelopment Commission meeting. Mayor Keyserling said, "I didn't hear it." He asked if they have a map of the Commerce Park. Mr. Ruhf said that would be great to have. Mayor Keyserling said the City of Beaufort would want that to be shown to business prospects coming in. The city would also want to discuss incentives that are available.

Mr. Ruhf said the chamber also plays a role in community education: the LOST/capital penny forum, off-shore drilling, and candidate forums are examples of the Chamber of Commerce's "stop gap role" with things that otherwise would not happen in the community.

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, seconded by Councilman McFee, to enter into Executive Session for discussions of personnel matters in Public Safety and land acquisition. The motion passed unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before council, the work session was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on October 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, council members Mike McFee, George O’Kelley, Stephen Murray, and Phil Cromer, and City Manager Bill Prokop.

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 Murray, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the work session. The motion passed unanimously. The work session was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keyserling led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mayor Pro Tem McFee led the invocation.

Councilman McFee made a motion to amend the agenda to include a request from Main Street Beaufort about Trick or Treat downtown and Art Walk on October 24. Councilman Murray seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE “IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER” CAMPAIGN

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman O’Kelley, to approve the resolution. Councilman McFee read the proclamation. Mayor Keyserling presented the resolution to **Joe DeVito**, BJWSA, who said that the water-sewer authority had been helping those communities in need because of the flooding. **The motion passed unanimously.**

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROCLAMATION FOR BEAUFORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Councilman Murray made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cromer, to approve the proclamation. Councilman McFee read the proclamation and the mayor presented it to **Georgia Peterson**, Beaufort Elementary School, who was selected to represent character education as the school’s student of the month for September 2015. Her teacher, **Angela Peterson**, said that Georgia represented all of the traits of character that Councilman McFee had read in the proclamation. She had come to the school under “not great circumstances,” but she has a “can do’ attitude” and helps fellow students. Ms. Peterson said that they were very pleased that Beaufort County School District and Beaufort Elementary were chosen because Georgia “is one of many shining stars there.”

MINUTES

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the minutes of the work session August 18, 2015. Councilman Murray abstained from voting because he was not in attendance at this council meeting. **The motion to approve the minutes as presented passed 4-0.**

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman O’Kelley, to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting September 8, 2015. Councilman Cromer said that on page two, in second paragraph, the name should be **Alice Wallace**, not Alice Howard. Councilman O’Kelley said on p. 13, take the “c” out of that line about the bow of the ship. In the paragraph above that, Councilman McFee said, Councilman O’Kelley is referred to as “GO.” **The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE REZONING FOUR PARCELS ON SIMMS STREET, FROM R-3 MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-4 HIGH DENSITY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Councilman O’Kelley made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO FY 2015 BUDGET

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the budget amendment on second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LATE BUSINESS LICENSE PENALTY FEES FROM S & J REALTY, 3 LLC

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the waiver for discussion. Councilman Murray asked if this is a local company. Mr. Prokop said they are in Charleston and have owned a property for three years. Mr. Prokop said staff recommends denying this request. They said they didn’t know that they needed to pay for a business license. Councilman O’Kelley said the business overlooked finding out what they needed to do, which is their responsibility, not the city’s. Councilman Murray asked if the business had a representative, but there was none in attendance. Mr. Prokop said the total penalties are from 2012–2015 for \$1101.86. The licenses aren’t paid for, and they owe \$2,700 – about \$1600 is business license fees. This is a rental property business. Mr. Prokop said they have made no payments. Councilman Murray agreed with Councilman O’Kelley’s point about compliance. **The motion failed, 0-5.**

REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE FROM THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. HELENA FOR THEIR FALL FAIR

Councilman Murray made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, to approve the request for the November 7 event. Ms. Burgess said the request is in the packet, and the fire department had asked that the food vendors be on one side of the street. She has communicated that to the church. An off-duty police officer will be there. It has staff support. Councilman O’Kelley recused himself from the vote because he is a member of that church. **The motion passed 4-0.**

MOTION TO ALLOW THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Murray, to allow the city manager to enter into the agreement for IT services. Mr. Prokop said that staff had proposed

moving IT services to the county, but there were “organizational shifts” underway there, so the city went back to company that had been the #1 bidder before they had decided to work with the county. Former Beaufort city manager **John McDonough** spoke very highly of this company, which is used in Sandy Springs, GA. They will provide IT and strong GIS services, which is a specialty, Mr. Prokop said. The contract cost is for the amount that had originally been budgeted; their references checked out extremely well. There will be two IT full-time people, whereas now they have one IT person three Wednesdays a month. Mr. Prokop reiterated that there was concern about risk in making a change as the county re-staffs, which led them to go back to their first choice of supplier. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION TO ALLOW MAIN STREET BEAUFORT TO ORGANIZE THE FALL ARTWALK AND FOR STREET CLOSURES FOR TRICK OR TREAT EVENT

Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Murray, to waive alcohol consumption in the core commercial district for ArtWalk on October 24, and to allow street closures for the October 29 trick or treat event in downtown Beaufort. Councilman McFee detailed the street closures that were part of the request. **The motion passed unanimously.**

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

The holiday ornaments are up in the parking lot for council’s and residents’ input. Mr. Prokop asked the mayor if he would lead the drive to raise funds through Pride of Beaufort to replace old, decrepit lights and decorations. They would like public support for the city’s holiday program. Ideally, they would like \$5000 to “up the level of what we have.”

Mr. Prokop said he wants council and the public to be aware of concerns “about what’s going on in the current state legislature general assembly.” In the current budget, there is a budget proviso for “indigent defense,” even though the state Office of Indigent Defense already collects 10.56% of every fine levied in municipal courts *and* every resident pays a public defender’s fee in through their Beaufort County property taxes. This additional cost means the citizens will be paying three times for this defense. “From what we’re told, this was put in the budget,” Mr. Prokop said, “because the legislature feels that the municipal courts are very profitable to the municipalities and they can afford it.” Staff wants the public to be aware, he said. “These are the kinds of things that cost us money, and our revenues tighten up.”

The city and county are working on a project to look at solar energy throughout Beaufort County. A couple months ago, Mr. Prokop said, the co put out an RFQ for companies to come in look for a good location for solar in Beaufort County so they can reduce costs to the city and county and improve the carbon footprint. Proposals have been received from three vendors; they’ll meet October 22 to select a vendor. There are two Beaufort sites Mr. Prokop said “we’re hoping they will look at” among the five areas being considered: the commerce park and Southside Park in the wetlands area. In addition, starting next week at the neighborhood associations’ meeting, Solarize South Carolina, a not-for-profit group, will be there. The program has been done throughout the state and in Charleston; they will explain the program and its benefits to residents. They will also look at city buildings and show how solar can help reduce costs.

Mr. Prokop said SCDOT, the county and the City of Beaufort are looking at several stormwater issues following on recent citizen complaints. These street flooding and run-off issues were not anticipated or budgeted, so they are working together to look at ways to make mitigate these problems with minimal budgetary impact. They hope to have two or three programs completed within the next 6-8 weeks.

A quarterly report will come to council by the end of the month. The city's communication with residents has improved, but they are "looking to build sustainability, not just have a quick fix," Mr. Prokop said.

MAYOR'S REPORT

October 21, Team Beaufort will go to the Realtors' Cook-off, and Mayor Keyserling is "the cheerleader" for the Frogmore stew.

The character education awards will be given monthly, Mayor Keyserling said; "each school will have one month."

REPORTS BY COUNCIL

Councilman McFee said he had gone to Columbia because he's on a grants committee to establish criteria for the Municipal Association's excess funds, with which they will create a \$2.5 million foundation, and the annual money generated will be given to municipalities for economic development, economic gardening, and other "Main Street-type improvements and benefits to the communities." Councilman McFee said at the end of the year, they will solicit for \$25,000 grants that are tiered according to population.

There being no further business to come before council, Councilman O'Kelley **made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Murray seconded. The motion passed unanimously**, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.