

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on October 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Council members Donnie Ann Beer, Gary B. Fordham, Mike Sutton, Mike McFee, and City Manager Scott Dadson. In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d) as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF BEAUFORT AS RECIPIENT OF THE TREE CITY USA AWARD FOR 20 YEARS

Frances Waite, South Carolina Forestry Commission, presented a plaque of recognition to the council and explained its meaning and the organization's future plans. Tree Board members were introduced. A map of "canopy roads" was also presented and explained. **Edie Rogers** said Beaufort has been a Tree City for more than 20 years. Ms. Waite said that the award was based on the records, but she will check. There may have been a lapse in membership.

PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman McFee seconded approval of the proclamation. The motion was approved unanimously.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular city council meeting of October 13, 2009 were presented to council for review. Councilman McFee clarified that changes had been made to the section highlighted on the council members' drafts of the minutes. Mayor Keyserling asked that Lynn Mulkey be referred to in the minutes as Dr. Lynn Mulkey. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman McFee, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

The minutes of the council work session on October 20, 2009 were presented to council for review. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman McFee, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Councilman Fordham was absent from the work session and so didn't vote.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE MAKEUP OF THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman McFee seconded approval of the ordinance on second reading. Councilwoman Beer asked if there would be restrictions on the amount of time members serve. Mr. Dadson said there are term limits for all boards and there would be for this, too: two consecutive terms. Mayor Keyserling asked if anyone thought that wasn't long enough, given the kinds of projects under discussion. Councilwoman Beer suggested 3-year terms. Councilman Fordham said 3- or 4-year terms. Councilman Sutton asked if the state statute

prevented more than 2-year terms. He wants clarification on that. Mr. Dadson said he'd check the state statute. If council wants 3-year terms, and it's not in violation of state law, they can do that. Councilwoman Beer said she was thinking of 2 3-year terms. Councilwoman Beer made a motion to amend the ordinance to 3-year terms if it meets state statute. Councilman Sutton seconded the amendment.

Councilman Sutton said he'd like clarification on the rotation so members' terms don't expire all at the same time. Mr. Dadson said the current group would serve out their current terms, which are staggered. Councilman Sutton said five new people would have terms starting when they take the position, and that's an automatic stagger. Councilwoman Beer made a motion to amend her amendment to 3-year *staggered* terms. Councilman Sutton seconded.

On the amendment to add "staggered terms" the vote was unanimous. Ms. Rogers clarified how staggered terms would work for new members.

Debra Johnson, 1710 Duke Street, said she and others are concerned about not having elected officials on the commission because of the power they'll have. She hopes there's been a lot of consideration of this. Eminent domain, executive sessions without council members, etc. are among the concerns. She hopes council will exercise its oversight role closely. Councilman Sutton asked whom the "others" are that she referred to. Ms. Johnson said she's not representing a group but speaking only for herself as a citizen and referencing private conversations she's had. Mayor Keyserling said he's heard concerns expressed, too, but he reiterated the history of the commission and is convinced that the council is right to try it this way and can amend if they need to. Councilwoman Beer said other redevelopment commissions also operate without council members on their boards. Mr. Dadson confirmed that some do have council membership, but the more successful ones don't. Councilman Fordham said originally, council didn't know how the redevelopment commission was going to work, so they put the five council members on there, but he's now comfortable with it. The redevelopment commission can do what they want to, but if council doesn't like it, council can put a stop to it.

On acceptance of the ordinance with the main amendment, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Keyserling said he'd like the matter of appointments to the commission (including an application process outside council's "immediate circle") on the next work session's schedule. He wants to look more aggressively out in the public to find commission members.

DISCUSSION ON BEAUFORT TRI-CENTENNIAL

Mayor Keyserling said there need to be plans for this special event. Ms. Johnson had explained the limits of the Beaufort Three Century Project at an earlier council session. He asked for volunteers to meet and come back to council with "a sense of scope and vision" that can be worked on in the work sessions. Councilwoman Beer and Councilman McFee volunteered. Mayor Keyserling said everyone could discuss this at the next work session. He added that 1962's 400th celebration of the Huguenots was really great.

ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

Mr. Shepherd was scheduled to speak to council but was unable to attend. Mr. Dadson said the city is on the county's count commission. The census may be done through neighborhood associations in underrepresented neighborhoods.

AMENDMENT TO FY 2010 BUDGET TO ADD A STATE PARKS GRANT

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the amendment on first reading. Ms. Hughes said this is a one-time grant for a walking trail at Pigeon Point Park for \$50,000. Matching funds will be done with in-kind services. She asked for a second reading on November 10. Ms. Rogers asked what the grant money would be used for, and said she can't hear all presentations to council. Mr. Dadson explained the plans. The hearing difficulty will be addressed when council moves to its new space next year. The motion was approved unanimously.

REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT, USA FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FROM THE CITY FOR FREE HOLIDAY PARKING

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman McFee seconded approval of the request for November 25, 2009 - January 4, 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT FOR STREET CLOSURES FOR NIGHT ON THE TOWN ACTIVITIES

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the request for December 4 from 4:30 - 11:00 p.m. Councilman Sutton asked about the Bill Jones property and how it affects the Park and the east end of the festival. Lanelle Fabian of Main Street Beaufort said it hasn't been looked at. Councilman McFee said they had the same issue last year and wanted to make sure there was sufficient ingress and egress. He asked Ms. Fabian if the times were the same as in the past. Ms. Fabian said Bay Street will be closed. Mr. Dadson said "You can pop across on Scott Street parking." The motion was approved unanimously.

REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT, USA FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FROM THE CITY FOR THE LIGHT UP THE NIGHT BOAT PARADE

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the request for December 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Waterfront Park. The motion was approved unanimously.

REQUEST FROM MAIN STREET BEAUFORT, USA FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR THE BEAUFORT CHRISTMAS PARADE AND WAIVER OF PARADE PERMIT FEE

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the request for December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Councilman McFee said there's an adjustment - the request is for Hamar Street, but it will actually be Adventure Street so that there's "less impact." Mr. Dadson said staff approves this amendment. The motion was approved unanimously.

REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the request at the Beaufort National Cemetery November 11. The motion was approved unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dadson said there will be a work session November 3, and there will be a work session every Tuesday council does not meet. He asked if council preferred the work sessions to be in the courtroom or at City Hall through the end of this year. He said there is a November 24 public hearing and at least one regular meeting in December. There could potentially be a work session between Christmas and New Year's Day if council chooses to do so. He asked council to look at their calendars and scheduling can be confirmed at the next work session.

Mayor Keyserling feels that work sessions which are "closer around the table" are better, and he'd rather go to City Hall but he doesn't want to confuse public, so he feels maybe they should remain in the courtroom for work sessions. Mr. Dadson said the courtroom tables can be moved together for work sessions. He warned that some work sessions may coincide with court sessions, so it's probably better to do work sessions at City Hall. Regular meetings are fine, but work sessions aren't necessarily able to be scheduled in the courtroom. Ms. Johnson suggested that, if the City Hall Tricentennial is the focus of the next work session, the meeting could probably be in the courtroom because a lot of interested people might show up to contribute. Mr. Dadson said there is "meaty stuff" on that work session's schedule. Mayor Keyserling said that work session should be in the courtroom.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling said he and Councilman Sutton are on the Northern Beaufort County Regional Planning Implementation Committee, and Beaufort and Port Royal are pushing for a Beaufort/Port Royal metro commission. County wants to create a sub-committee – a Beaufort County Planning Commission - but Beaufort/Port Royal said no, because it adds another step to the process. They need to stay diligent to make headway and not to create a bigger county government, but instead to bring the county and the two towns together to look at the areas within the growth boundaries. At the next Implementation Committee meeting, the cost of services question will be examined with the managers of the city, town and county.

Mayor Keyserling and David Lott (chair of the Steering Committee) met with the Pigeon Point West End about the comp plan. Mayor Keyserling said a lot of information was obtained. The next meeting is on October 29 with citizens from the Point, Old Commons and Northwest Quadrant. Mossy Oaks will meet with them on November 4.

Mayor Keyserling said when he was on council before and did the master plan for Waterfront Park, they discussed reversing Scott Street so it would be an exit from the Park, avoiding Bay Street for the most part. He thinks it should be looked at again to help traffic. Councilman Sutton said now that the curbing is in at Carteret and Bay, leaving the playground is a right turn only. If the light's stopped, there's no way to get out. He added that merchants have historically "pushed back on both sides." Councilman McFee suggested asking for Main Street Beaufort's help on that. Mr. Dadson said that the last time this was discussed, council said to let the construction project get finished, see what it looks like, where parking is, and then decide what to do, so it's not "in a vacuum." Those streets interplay with each other. When the second phase of the building is done, they can have a conversation, including Main Street Beaufort. Carteret is becoming a different street with more pedestrian orientation. Councilman McFee said the redevelopment commission should be involved in the conversation too, and Mayor Keyserling

said they have less “bias.” Councilman McFee brought up a number of additional parking spaces available to the city on West Street. Mr. Dadson said the city has a work order on that.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS

Councilwoman Beer said she will be attend the Defense Communities Conference and will miss the work session November 3.

Councilman Sutton asked Mr. Dadson what’s happening with the striping of the boat ramp. Mr. Dadson said the dock itself has been improved, but that’s not been done yet, though it’s “on the radar.”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before City Council, Councilwoman Beer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Fordham. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
SHIRLEY HUGHES, ACTING CITY CLERK