

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall, 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.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Dr. Steve Keeler of Sea Island Presbyterian Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

### **PRESENTATION**

Alice Howard, MCAS Beaufort, presented Chief Clancy of the Beaufort Police Department with a signed Blue Angels picture for their assistance with this year's Air Show.

### **PROCLAMATION**

On motion by Councilman Sutton, second by Councilwoman Beer, council voted unanimously to adopt the proclamation honoring the family of Plato Smalls.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Zara, 794 Ribaut Road, owns property at the corner of Hermitage and Ribaut. In the last month, two neighbors have had security lights installed by SCE&G. He said the light is very intense and floods his backyard. He has discovered that there are no residential light trespass ordinances, and he plans to approach the county, as well as asking the council to direct Libby Anderson, to look into these pole lights' intensity and matters of trespass.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The three agenda items scheduled for public hearing at this meeting were rescheduled for the July 14, 2009 council meeting.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular city council meeting of June 9, 2009 were presented to council for review. Councilman McFee requested that the dimensions of the single family dwelling at 905 Bladen Street be stricken from the minutes. He also noted that Ms. Anderson, in reference to buffer requirements from the Historic Review Board, referred to lots *within* the historic district, not "outside" it, as was stated in the minutes. On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Sutton, council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

### **AMENDMENT REVISING SECTION 2.8 C OF THE UDO REGARDING EXPIRATION OF TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the amendment. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH WASTE PRO FOR FIVE YEARS**

Councilman Sutton moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the resolution on second reading. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION SETTING FEES FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES FOR FIVE YEARS**

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Sutton seconded approval of the resolution. The city manager noted that this rate is fifty cents lower than the current rate and is effective for five years. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) AWARD TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Councilman Sutton moved and Councilwoman Beer seconded approval of the grant. The police department found and received an \$18,000 grant to provide an updated service revolver which Councilman Sutton said “will give them a little more firepower.” The city manager said the new guns will save money because all weapons will be of the same caliber. He also said that this is a normal grant from the Justice Department to upgrade and replace current equipment. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTEES TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE 1% FIREMAN’S INSURANCE AND INSPECTION FUND**

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded confirmation of the appointees. The city manager detailed who sits on the board and noted that the money is generated by State insurance monies and is separately accounted for. He told council that they are to affirm the selections to the board. Mayor Keyserling said that the money goes directly to the fire department, not through the city. He added that this is not a new organization, but it’s been revived for greater accountability. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO WAIVE PENALTIES ON BUSINESS LICENSE ACCOUNTS**

Councilwoman Beer moved and Councilman Fordham seconded approval of the request. Shirley Hughes told the council about three taxpayers who have requested that the penalties on their business license taxes be waived for various reasons. A conversation ensued with Councilman Sutton; Ms. Hughes concurred with him that there need to be changes to the ordinance so that she is not required to appear before council in every instance a waiver request is made. She said that she will come back to council with appropriate changes to the ordinance to allow matters to be handled in-house. Councilman Sutton suggested that “abusive situations should come to council, not day-to-day good clients.” Ms. Hughes said that only a few license holders were trying to take advantage, while most act in good faith. She added that staff recommended waiving the penalties of all three of taxpayers whose cases she’d presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Keyserling said that he’d attended the “next to last meeting of the sign group.” They have found many irregularities and duplication. He believes they’ll have prepared a presentation in 3-4 weeks.

The Northwest Quadrant group has created lists of “contributing and non-contributing structures,” and is making recommendations for demolition as well as potential tools for those

that are salvageable. An intern is going to do a virtual tour of 4 blocks of what the Quadrant was like, how it is today, and how it could be.

In an effort to obtain grant monies, the mayor met with a group of community institutions who might be potential partners in the process. He hopes this will be ongoing.

For the council's workshop on July 7, the mayor has invited Jane Upshaw of USCB to share her plans for the school and to explore opportunities for USCB and the city to work more closely.

For the July 7 workshop, the mayor requested council's opinions on the situation of Mr. Dukes, a Ribaut Road resident who has had various issues with his efforts to put up a 6' fence.

Councilman Sutton asked for the workshop to also include a discussion about "what we're going to do and when" regarding South Side Park.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman Sutton, council voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 70(a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. The motion was approved unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, the council returned to Open Session. Councilman Sutton moved and Councilwoman Beer seconded a directive to the city manager to put the Marina contract on the July 14 agenda for approval, as well as doing a walk-through of the Marina with Rick Griffin to document its current condition. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before City Council, Councilman Fordham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman McFee. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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BILLY KEYSERLING, MAYOR

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

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COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

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COUNCILMAN MIKE SUTTON

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COUNCILMAN MIKE McFEE

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHIRLEY HUGHES, ACTING CITY CLERK