

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on November 13, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road. In attendance were Mayor Bill Rauch, Mayor Pro Tem Donnie Ann Beer, Councilmen Frank Glover, Gary B. Fordham, Billy Keyserling, and City Manager John F. McDonough. In accordance with 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.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened with an invocation by Rev. Buford Robertson, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on an amendment to Section 2-4031 of the City's Code of Ordinances requiring the installation of key boxes on properties protected by an automatic fire alarm system and/or an automatic fire sprinkler.

Sammy Breland, Fire Marshall, explained the Knox Box Rapid Entry System would allow the Fire Department to enter the building, when it is unoccupied, without waiting for a key holder to arrive; thereby, causing little or no damage to the structure. The box can either be flush or surface mounted and the cost ranges from \$170.00 to \$300.00, he said. There are tamper resistant boxes available that can be connected to the security alarm in the building and would sound an alarm when the box is being opened. He added that the Fire Chief decided, if this Ordinance is adopted, to use the Central Lock System where the box is radio controlled by the Beaufort County dispatch who would release the key box to the structure. He said he made this presentation to Main Street Beaufort, USA at their meeting last week where he answered their questions and concerns.

Dave Radford, Pigeon Point Road, stated Burton Fire Department requires these boxes on the schools in their fire district. He said the box is secure with multi-positioned locks and would not be a security problem.

Jackie Martin, Main Street Beaufort USA, Executive Director, said she notified the members when she sent out reminders of the meeting. No comments or objections were received.

The hearing was closed at 6:12 p.m.

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2001

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 9, 2001 were reviewed by City Council and the following changes were made. On the top of page 5, the acreage being annexed should have been 0.48 acres and on page 6, 3rd line under Councilman Keyserling's Report, change "would" to "could."

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Glover, Council voted to adopt the minutes of the October 9, 2001 Council meeting as amended.

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2001

The minutes of the special City Council meeting of October 16, 2001 were reviewed by City Council and the following change was made on page 1 in the last sentence under Capital Improvement Projects; add selves after them.

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilman Fordham, Council voted to adopt the minutes of the October 16, 2001 Council meeting as amended.

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2001

City Council reviewed the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 23, 2001 and on page 3, 7th line under Woods Memorial Bridge Walkway, the abbreviation for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials should be AASHTO and in that same section, 4th line from the bottom, public is to added before address system.

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council voted to adopt the minutes of the October 23, 2001 Council meeting as amended.

MINUTES: WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

The minutes of the City Council workshop of November 5, 2001 were reviewed by City Council and it was pointed out that in the last paragraph under Waterfront Park Master Plan, west should be east.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council members Beer, Rauch, Fordham, and Keyserling voted to adopt the minutes of the November 5, 2001 Council workshop as amended. Councilman Glover abstained. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL RULES & REGULATIONS

The Ordinance amending Section 1-6001 of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding personnel rules and regulations was presented for second reading and adoption.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Glover, Council voted to adopt the Ordinance on second reading. (Copy of Ordinance at end of October 23, 2001 minutes.)

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-ARTICLE K, "HIGHWAY CORRIDOR OVERLAY ZONING

The Ordinance amending Section 5-6208(f) of Article K of the Zoning Ordinance, "Highway Corridor Overlay Zoning," revising wall sign requirements was presented for second reading and adoption.

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council voted to adopt the Ordinance on second reading. (Copy of Ordinance at end of October 23, 2001 minutes.)

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS - ONE CENT SALES TAX

During the October 16th workshop, the feasibility of passing a one-cent sales tax for transportation

projects was discussed and potential projects were considered. The Mayor recommended sending a letter to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee stating Council's desires and preferences for funding.

The list of projects was discussed further along with determining whether road paving needs would be another potential item; however, Council concurred it is SCDOT's responsibility to maintain the highways. The parking garage and the by-pass were considered priority items. The question was raised regarding a study prepared by the County's transportation consulting firm, Wilbur Smith & Associates. Ms. Anderson, City Planner, stated the focus of the study was on needs assessment, existing traffic counts, and traffic projections. Based on those needs, a decision would be made as to whether to do the entire by-pass or only certain portions. The study has been performed but has not been released yet, she said. Councilman Glover pointed out, to place something on a referendum, a specific project, price, and length of time is required by state statute. He said Highway 17 from Gardens Corner to the Combahee River serves not only the citizens of Beaufort but Beaufort County and the entire Lowcountry region; therefore, he believes this would be an appropriate project since it is not currently on the STIF and would cost approximately \$16 million. Council agreed it is necessary because it is a dangerous highway; however, it is not a City issue and should be a County priority.

The Mayor said Council is always searching for a grant for the City-wide Greenway and questioned Council regarding the placement of this on the list.

Merritt Patterson, contractor, pointed out the Burton Hill area, from Broad River to the shopping center at the intersection of Highway 21 and 280, will be growing and will generate new tax revenue for the City; whereas, some other projects will not. He said the stormwater runoff, extension of the water and sewer, and the roadway system could be planned in advance and would be an option for consideration and a good use of the one-cent sales tax. He pointed out that the major part of the traffic study has been completed by Wilbur Smith & Associates and this would be a good opportunity to plan for the roads and control where they need to be. He added a TIF is in place as a funding source but it is not timely; however, it could fund 50% and the sales tax fund 50%. Councilman Glover said the portion of the plan where Burton Hill Road intersects with Highway 21 is a realignment issue. To improve the Burton Hill alignment with Boundary Street/Highway 21, would be a construction issue rather than a planning issue and could be a project for the tax. The Mayor said TIF dollars would be better used for planning but intersection improvements would be of interest to the citizens. He and Councilman Keyserling agreed that the City should not take on the SCDOT's projects. Mr. Patterson said the land in the northern corridor is available and the people want to develop it. The City only has to prepare the planning and the bulk of the infrastructure will be paid for by the developers through either impact fees or investment dollars. He said again that the one-cent sales tax could be used for this project and asked Council to consider it for the list. Councilman Glover recommended adding the intersection realignment improvements for Burton Hill Road at Highway 21 with a cost estimate of \$2.5 million. Council agreed the public would concur that traffic improvements are an important project.

Councilman Keyserling made a motion that the parking garage for downtown be the first priority on the list of projects to be funded by the one cent sales tax, the northern by-pass from Beaufort to Lady's Island as the second item, intersection improvements in the Greater Beaufort area as the third

choice, and the fourth project - the Greenway Urban Trails Project. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The motion carried unanimously. Council concurred the costs will be added later.

Dave Radford stated the City continues to find money to build new things but ignores the maintenance. He referred to the bumps on Boundary Street and asked Council to write the Legislature or SCDOT to fund those repairs.

The City Manager stated a letter was recently sent to SCDOT outlining several different issues and that was one of the points listed. Their response indicated they cannot help; however, they are in the process of purchasing a milling machine to share among the four counties. Councilman Glover recommended inviting Robert Clark of SCDOT to a meeting at City Hall to address these and other problems. Council concurred.

Councilman Keyserling urged Council to consider Merritt Patterson's suggestions, maybe during a workshop. The Mayor suggested holding a workshop in a few weeks to discuss this further.

REQUEST TO SELL BEER AT THE WATERFRONT PARK

A request to sell beer in the Waterfront Park during the "Fighting For Freedom" event on December 1, 2001 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. was presented to Council for consideration.

Richard Drake, owner of The Bank Grill & Bar and one of the event sponsors, explained they are proposing to have a boxing exhibition at the Waterfront Park benefitting the local chapter of the Red Cross and honoring the military in the area, which will be free to the public. They are asking Council for permission to sell beer in the Park during the event. Mr. Drake explained the proceeds will come from the sponsors, a paid reception and a paid media event to be hosted by the Bank Grill & Bar. Councilwoman Beer raised the question of how the beer sales will be controlled if the Park is not fenced and there is no entrance gate. Mr. Drake explained they are hiring eleven police officers, setting up a table to sell tickets for the beer and to check ID's. No coolers will be allowed, he said.

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council voted to approve the request to sell beer in the Park on December 1, during the event.

REQUEST TO HOLD CHRISTMAS PARADE

A request by Main Street Beaufort, USA to conduct the Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 9, 2001 beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Bladen Street was presented to Council.

Councilman Keyserling made a motion to approve the request for the parade, subject to approval by the SC Department of Transportation, with traffic control provided by the Police Department. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO BAG METERS

A request to bag 2-hour, 4-hour, and 8-hour parking meters in the downtown area during the month of December to encourage holiday traffic downtown was presented to Council.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Keyserling gave second. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE USE OF TWO, FOUR, & EIGHT-HOUR PARKING METERS

An Ordinance temporarily suspending the use of the two, four, and eight-hour parking meters in the downtown area and thereby temporarily suspending enforcement of Part 8, Chapter 2, Section 8-2002 and temporarily adding a two-hour parking time limit under the authority of Part 8, Chapter 2, Section 8-2001 of the City's Code of Ordinances was presented for first reading.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Glover, Council unanimously approved the Ordinance on first reading. (Copy of Ordinance at end of these minutes.)

RESOLUTION - ROBERT SMALLS MASTER PLAN

A Joint Corridor Plan for Robert Smalls Parkway which addresses the S.C. Highway 170 corridor from S.C. Highway 280 to the Broad River Bridge and prepared by the planning staff from the City, the Town of Port Royal, and the County was presented to Council along with a Resolution to adopt the plan.

Ms. Libby Anderson, City Planner, said this Plan is an outgrowth of the Highway 170 widening project. The Design Committee, established this summer, was charged with proposing esthetic improvements to the Highway 170 right-of-way. The Committee decided the appearance of the private property was just as important to the character of the Corridor as the right-of-way. The Robert Smalls Master Plan is the result of those planning efforts between the three jurisdictions. She said the committee recommended that a shared, uniform set of development standards be developed and adopted by each jurisdiction. The uniform Development Standards, the Access Management Standards and Planning, and a 10 foot wide pedestrian and bicycle trail are the three goals of the plan.

Ms. Anderson explained these in detail with Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal Planner, and Rob Merchant, County Planner both in attendance.

The Corridor Plan was presented to and endorsed by the City of Beaufort-Town of Port Royal Joint Municipal Planning Commission and the Beaufort County Planning Commission. Ms. Anderson added that the plan will be presented to the Town and the County later this month.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council unanimously adopted the Resolution adopting the Robert Smalls Parkway Joint Corridor Plan. (Copy of Resolution at end of these minutes.)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager's Report was presented to Council. (A copy is attached to the end of the minutes.)

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor stated he attended the EOC check receiving ceremony recently. While he was there, a discussion on subsidized housing occurred along with the building permit fees. He asked that staff develop a policy or plan to allow those fees to be waived for low income subsidized housing and

present it to Council for consideration.

REPORTS BY COUNCIL

BEER: Councilwoman Beer reported she attended the Municipal Association of South Carolina’s Legislative meeting in Columbia where the one cent sales tax was discussed along with the TIF. She also attended the Veteran’s Day Parade yesterday and the Marine Corps Ball at the Air Station over the weekend.

GLOVER: Councilman Glover reported he will be attending the SCARC convention in Myrtle Beach from Sunday through Tuesday and will not be able to attend the November 27th Council meeting as he will be on vacation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council voted to move into Executive Session for a discussion regarding the Lady’s Island TIF and an annexation matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning to Open Session and there being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

BILL RAUCH, MAYOR

COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

COUNCILMAN FRANK GLOVER

COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

COUNCILMAN BILLY KEYSERLING

ATTEST:

BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK