

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on November 27, 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 Gary B. Fordham, Billy Keyserling, and City Manager John F. McDonough. Councilman Frank Glover was out of town. 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 Councilwoman Donnie Ann Beer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

### **PROCLAMATION - ARBOR DAY**

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Fordham, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Proclamation designating December 7, 2001 as Arbor Day in the City.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A public hearing was held to receive comment on the proposed revision of the requirements for wall signs in the Historic District. A Notice of Publication was duly advertised in The Beaufort Gazette on November 12, 2001. The City of Beaufort-Town of Port Royal Joint Municipal Planning Commission recommended approval.

Ms. Libby Anderson, City Planner, stated this zoning text amendment amends the Historic Sign regulations. The amendment would give the Board of Architectural Review the authority to approve wall signs on the sides of building facades that do not face a street. Currently the Board is restricted to approving signs on the sides of buildings that face a street.

There being no other comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:09 p.m.

A public hearing was held to receive comment on the proposed rezoning of a 0.23-acre parcel of property located at 2906 Polk Street in the Polk Village Subdivision (a/k/a District 100, Tax Map 26A, Parcel 84) from the County's Zoning Ordinance of "Community Preservation District" to "Office Commercial." A Notice of Publication was duly advertised in The Beaufort Gazette on November 12, 2001. The City of Beaufort-Town of Port Royal Joint Municipal Planning Commission recommended approval.

Ms. Libby Anderson, City Planner, said this rezoning request is the result of a petition for annexation. This parcel is on the south side of Polk Street between Center Street and West Street in the Subdivision. The proposed zoning will allow more flexibility for use of the structure which could improve the quality of the neighborhood. The Office Commercial zoning will be a good transition between the HC zoning on Boundary Street and the residential zoning in the interior of the neighborhood.

There being no other comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:12 p.m.

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2001**

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of November 13, 2001 were reviewed by City Council.

On motion by Councilman Keyserling, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council voted to adopt the minutes of the November 13, 2001 Council meeting as presented.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council voted to approve the following three (3) items presented on the Consent Items portion of the agenda.

**TOY RUN**

A request by Southern Scooters and Abate of South Carolina to conduct a Toys for Tots Motorcycle Rally on December 16, 2001 beginning at 2:00 p.m., subject to approval by the S.C. Department of Transportation with traffic control by the City's Police Department.

**CANCELLATION OF COUNCIL MEETING**

The cancellation of the second Council meeting in December for the Christmas holidays.

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

Second reading and adoption of the Ordinance 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. (Copy of Ordinance at end of November 13, 2001 minutes.)

**ORDINANCE ADDING REQUIREMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF KEY BOXES**

The Ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the City's Code of Ordinances by adding Section 2-4031 requiring the installation of key boxes on properties protected by an automatic fire alarm system and/or an automatic fire sprinkler within the City was presented for second reading and adoption.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading. Councilman Fordham gave second.

Dr. Charles Aimar stated his concerns with businesses turning over keys to their establishments to the fire department in order to prevent the breaking of a window or a door when it is necessary to gain access to a building that may or may not be on fire. He said he has no automatic fire sprinkler system in his pharmacy; however, he believes the regulatory agencies would have concerns over someone else having access to his establishment since he is responsible for the drugs within the structure. He would prefer the door or window be broken than someone having a key to his business 365 days a year.

Sammy Breland, Fire Marshall, explained the keys that would allow entrance into the building would

be to the sprinkler system or fire alarm control panel, not to controlled substances. He added that there are over 7,000 communities throughout the United States that participate in this Key Box Program. He stated further that the keys to the control panels would be locked in a UL approved Knox Box Rapid Entry System box which would be attached to the exterior of the building. The fire department would have the only key to that box; even the property owner or tenant would not be able to open it. Additionally, the fire department plans to make it even more secure, he said, by placing the key to the Knox Box in another device known as a Central Lock on the truck that can only be released by the dispatch center, via radio, on the way to a fire call. After unlocking the Knox Box, the key is placed back into the Central Lock in the truck and resecured. The Fire Marshall said in unusual situations, where a sprinkler system serves more than one business, that can be resolved with the building owner.

Charles Aimar, Jr., said he contacted his insurance agent when he heard about the Knox Box. Since they sell jewelry, the company was leery about someone else having access to the building. They would require a City official to sign a statement that they had received the key and are therefore responsible. Mr. Breland restated that the Fire Department will not have a key to a building. They will only have a key to gain access to the secured box that contains the key to the control panel. Mr. Aimar said some of the other merchants also expressed concerns about this. Dr. Aimar said it appears that if the key to the Knox Box falls into the wrong hands, this person would have access to every business on Bay Street.

Dick Stewart, business owner, said he spoke with the Fire Marshall recently and he understood this would give access primarily to controls to the fire alarm system; however, he is now confused. He pointed out that eventually there may be citizens residing over the businesses on Bay Street. then there would be a mixture of keys in the box or many boxes. He said he supports the concept of the fire department having access to sprinklers and fire alarm systems but he was not aware of the necessity of so many keys and he needs more time to think about this.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council unanimously tabled the Ordinance for two weeks in order to resolve the concerns raised by the business owners. (Copy of Ordinance at end of October 23, 2001 minutes.)

### **WOODS MEMORIAL BRIDGE WALKWAY PROJECT**

The City Manager briefly updating Council on the Woods Memorial Bridge Walkway Project, said the County stated they will participate in the funding; however, the City is waiting for the County to formalize their participation in the project. There has been a lengthy debate about which side of the bridge to place the walkway. If the walkway were to be built on the west side of the bridge, to alleviate the concern about pedestrians accessing the north side of US Highway 21 on Lady's Island, SCDOT is being contacted regarding the possibility of installing a traffic light in the Meridian Road area. A reply should be received from SCDOT this week. Also, County Council will discuss this further at their meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>. If they agree, construction could proceed shortly after the first of the year.

### **TREE CITY PRESENTATION**

David Grant, Urban Forester for the Coastal Region, of the South Carolina Forestry Commission

presented the Tree City USA Award for 2001 to the City stating this is the City's 13<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA. The Mayor recognized the Public Works Department for their contributions to the maintenance and upkeep of the trees in the City.

### **ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE F-SIGN GUIDELINES-BEAUFORT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

An Ordinance amending the appendix of Article F of the City's Zoning Ordinance, "Sign Guidelines-Beaufort Historic District," by revising wall sign requirements was presented for first reading.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the Ordinance on first reading. Councilman Keyserling gave second. The motion passed unanimously. (Copy of Ordinance at end of these minutes.)

### **ORDINANCE ANNEXING .23 ACRE PARCEL ON POLK STREET**

An Ordinance annexing a .23-acre parcel of property located at 2906 Polk Street in the Polk Village Subdivision and identified as District 100, Tax Map 26A, Parcel 84 was presented to Council for first reading.

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

### **ORDINANCE ZONING A .23 ACRE PARCEL ON POLK STREET**

An Ordinance amending the Zoning Map by zoning a .23 acre parcel located at 2906 Polk Street in the Polk Village Subdivision and identified as District 100, Tax Map 26A, Parcel 84 to Office Commercial was presented to Council for first reading.

On motion by Councilman Fordham, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council approved the Ordinance on first reading. (Copy of Ordinance 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 reported he has an appointment on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. with staffers of the Legislation Delegation to discuss the funding package for the Waterfront Park repairs. The County Council Finance Committee met yesterday before their Council meeting, at that time, they had not made a determination about their financial participation for the Park. County Council acknowledges that the Waterfront Park is a regional park used by Lady's Island, Burton, St. Helena and other residents of the County. However, County Councilman Generales said at that meeting that he thought it would not be appropriate for the County to spend any money in support of "that small city." The Mayor added that it appears County Council believes they only represent the unincorporated areas or at least when it comes to support of the Park. He stated he notified the Chairman of County Council that he will be going to Washington to request Federal money to help with funding the Park and he would need to know what the local governments will commit. The Chairman stated they would give a timely answer but time is getting short.

**REPORTS BY COUNCIL**

**BEER:** Councilwoman Beer referred to the hour flight she took in the F-18 from the MCAS Beaufort as “The Flight of a Lifetime.” The flight included flying 100 miles out over the ocean, flying at 6 G’s, and some touch and go’s from the runway. She said she enjoyed it throughly and would do it again.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council voted to move into Executive Session for appointments/reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Architectural Review, Corridor Review Board, Tree Board, BOAR Architectural Consultant, a legal matter, a contractual matter, and two land acquisitions items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon returning to Open Session and there being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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BILL RAUCH, MAYOR

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

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COUNCILMAN FRANK GLOVER

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COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

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COUNCILMAN BILLY KEYSERLING

ATTEST:

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BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK