

A special meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on September 29, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in the Waterfront Park, Bay Street. In attendance were Mayor Bill Rauch, Mayor Pro Tem Donnie Ann Beer, Councilmen Frank Glover, Gary B. Fordham, Billy Keyserling, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by the mayor to consider the Waterfront Park site plans and buildings.

PRESENTATION

Brian Jenest of Cole, Jenest, and Stone addressed the comments received during the March public meeting while referring to artist's renderings of the proposed plans. Green space was a concern he said and 25% more green space has been added with a grassy area placed where the playground is currently located. Other changes include extending the Park to the back of the existing buildings, enlarging the amphitheater, adding fifteen swings along the seawall and play area, slightly changing the design of the pavilion, and adding seating by the walk ways. The materials along the waterfront will consist of tabby and Scott Street is to be landscaped and opened up to the Park. The building housing the restrooms and maintenance area will be landscaped and hidden by the trees.

Numerous questions from the public were answered by Mr. Jenest and the City Manager. One concern in particular was the care and placement of the Viet Nam monument during and after construction. It was explained that they have to be removed to repair the drainage problems then a decision will be made as to the actual placement. Other questions and concerns included the tour buses' fumes, placement of the horses and bus parking, the number of parking spaces that may be lost, how many trees will be removed, when will construction begin and how long will it take, continued use of the farmers market, use of Charles Street, additional restrooms, completion date for the playground and reuse of the equipment, and how long before the rest of the Plan will be completed.

Henry Chambers addressed the group and stated the City has been working with a number of citizens and the plans will be changed to accommodate all concerns. He asked the public to accept the revised plans so this can be put out to bid and the repairs can begin. There have been 20 hearings on the plans for the park and the public will continue to be involved, he said.

Bill Chambers, the local architect working on the current building design, noted that all the architecture is revolving around the pavilion. He said he would like to eliminate the existing beams in the pavilion in order to get more light and proposed creating translucent panels in the roof. He is considering deleting the lattice and creating uplighting with no glare to make it a better used space. Also he is proposing to eliminate the column on the stage which would allow smaller events to use it. He suggested using copper on the roof with stucco walls and an arbor with vines at both entrances. By placing vents in the ceiling and keeping it open the pavilion would remain cool.

Councilwoman Beer moved to accept the site plan and approve the building as presented and put

it out to bid. Councilman Glover gave second. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting regarding the Waterfront Park plans adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Councilman Fordham moved to reconsider the ordinance setting the millage rate adopted last night at the regular meeting. Councilman Glover gave second. Council members Beer and Keyserling voted nay. Councilmen Fordham, Rauch, and Glover voted aye. The motion to reconsider passed 3 to 2.

Councilman Fordham stated Council approved the millage rate of 59.3 mills. He moved to reduce that amount by five mills and reconsider the millage at 54.2. He proposed using \$185,000 of the Land Acquisition fund balance plus reducing the Contingency Fund by \$37,500 and reduce the waterfront park indebtedness by the same amount. These reductions plus the transfer of the land acquisition fund would enable the millage to be lowered to 54 mills. Councilman Glover gave second.

The mayor recommended tabling the motion and call a special meeting to discuss this more. Tuesday, October 5th at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall conference room was suggested.

Councilman Keyserling moved to table the motion. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 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