

A special meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 9, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Beaufort County Library Board Room, 211 Scott Street. In attendance were Mayor Bill Rauch, Mayor Pro Tem George H. O'Kelley, Council members Donnie Ann Beer, Gary B. Fordham, Mike Sutton, and City Manager Scott Dadson. 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 Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM

Councilman Sutton moved to add an item to the agenda. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION AT WHICH THE QUESTION OF THE SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$15,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY

The ordinance ordering a special election at which the question of the sale of not exceeding \$15,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of the City shall be submitted to the qualified, registered voters of the City was presented to Council for second reading and adoption.

Councilwoman Beer moved to adopt the ordinance on second reading. Councilman Fordham seconded the motion.

A finance summary sheet comparing the difference between borrowing from IPRB (lease installment) and a General Obligation Bond was distributed and explained by the City Manager. He pointed out a GO Bond is less costly and reviewed the interest cost rate.

Replying to Councilman O'Kelley's question, Bill Harvey, City Attorney, stated October 23, 2007 is the election day; however, during discussions with the County Election Commission Executive Director, he was told that if there is no opposition by the filing date there will be no general election. The City can hold its own election, however.

Don Starkey said the referendum will have to be well marketed. In his opinion, a City Hall is needed because the current office spaces are cramped and there is no room in which to hold meetings. He asked how many mills would be required to finance the structure. There are many factors, according to the City Manager; the mil estimation or value of the mil is based on a leveling of the mil over the twenty years. Because of the actual debt service payment against the City's cash position it is difficult to state the exact amount. The Mayor pointed out the municipal complex will be built. If it is built using the G.O. bonds, it will cost less than the IPRB plan. The ordinance asks the voter to allow the City to utilize the least expensive funding.

Councilman Sutton stated many of the offices the employees use are not code compliance; therefore, the services are diminished. Councilwoman Beer added that rent is being paid for inadequate space to house departments and in different locations.

Mr. Starkey suggested the Gazette reporter write a series of articles regarding the inadequate space in the City buildings. He also asked what percentage would the taxes have to increase to fund the complex. The City Manager replied that for every \$100,000 in value that is currently being taxed, there would be an additional \$72.00 per year.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on second reading. (Copy of ordinance at end of the July 26, 2007 minutes)

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Design Review Board

On motion by Councilman Sutton, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council appointed Jerry Ashmore to serve on the Design Review Board to fill the vacant position of the business owner/Landscape architect. This is a 2-year term and will expire August of 2009.

Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Sutton moved to appoint James Bellew to fill the unexpired term of Bill Anderson on the Redevelopment Commission. Councilwoman Beer seconded the motion. This term will expire May of 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

BILL RAUCH, MAYOR

COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

COUNCILMAN GEORGE H. O'KELLEY, JR.

COUNCILMAN MIKE SUTTON

ATTEST:

BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK