

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on October 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Ribaut Road. In attendance were Mayor Bill Rauch, Mayor Pro Tem George H. O'Kelley, Councilmen Gary B. Fordham, Mike Sutton, and City Manager Scott Dadson. Councilwoman Donnie Ann Beer was absent due to a death in her family. 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 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Rev. David Holland, Pastor of Tidal Creek Fellowship. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

RECOGNITION

The International Baccalaureate and French Honor Society students of Beaufort High School appeared before Council regarding an invitation to join the International Association of Beauforts. Kelsey Brown, a Rotary Club Exchange student in France in 2006, spoke about the opportunity to join the International Association. She mentioned this is a chance to establish an exchange program and could enhance tourism. The cost to join is determined per capita but capped at \$1,000 annually; however, there is no fee this year. She suggested Council adopt a proclamation stating the City's intent to join.

Josette Grimsley, French Teacher, explained this began as a translation project. She pointed out the Beauforts are in various locations not just France. In fact Beaufort, North Carolina is very active in the Association.

The Mayor stated he was in Beaufort, North Carolina about 18 months ago and spoke with the retired French teacher who is in charge of their membership. He stated the need to have someone to manage those records and activities here, perhaps the Honor Society under the leadership of Ms. Grimsley and Dennis Adams, Information Specialist of the County Library.

On motion by Councilman O'Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, Council adopted a resolution, to be drafted before the next meeting, to join the International Association of Beauforts and to allocate the dues from the Accommodations Tax Fund. The Finance Director agreed to check with the State to see if that is a legitimate use of the money.

PROCLAMATION

On motion by Councilman O'Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, Council voted to adopt the proclamation designating October 23, 2007 as Mary Pinckney Eastering Powell Day.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 9, 2007 were presented to Council for

review. On motion by Councilman O’Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, Council members O’Kelley, Sutton, and Fordham approved the minutes as presented. The Mayor abstained as he was absent from that meeting.

REQUEST TO BAG METERS

A request by Main Street Beaufort to bag two and four- hour parking meters in the Downtown area, excluding the meters adjacent to the Count Library beginning Friday, November 23 through Wednesday, January 2, 2008 was presented to Council.

Councilman Sutton moved to approve the request. Councilman O’Kelley gave second. The vote was unanimous.

ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING 2 & 4 HOUR PARKING METERS

The ordinance temporarily suspending the use of two-hour and four-hour parking meters in the Downtown Area and suspending enforcement of Part 8, Chapter 2, Sections 8-2002 and 8-2012 of the City’s Code of Ordinances 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.

Councilman O’Kelley moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. Councilman Sutton gave second. The ordinance was approved unanimously. (Copy of Ordinance at end of these minutes)

WATERFRONT PARK PLAQUE

During the term of former mayor Angus Fordham, a parking lot was established where the Marina Parking lot is now. Several meetings ago, Councilman Fordham suggested a plaque be erected indicating the names of the two councils, and their terms, that were instrumental in creating the first parking lot downtown. The wording for the plaque was presented to Council for consideration. A quote for the plaque according to the City’s Public Works Director is between \$1,200 to \$1,500.

Councilman Fordham moved to approve the wording for the plaque. Councilman O’Kelley seconded the motion.

The Mayor suggested the heading be changed from “City’s First Parking Lot” to “Freedom Mall”. Council concurred. The funding will be determined later.

The motion to prepare the plaque with the wording as amended was unanimous.

REQUEST TO CLOSE STREET FOR BAZAAR

A request from the Chairwoman of the St. Helena Episcopal Church to close a portion of Newcastle Street between North and King Streets for the Fall Bazaar from 8:00 a.m. Friday, November 2 through 4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 3, 2007 was presented to Council.

On motion by Councilman O’Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, Council approved the request.

REQUEST TO ALLOW OPEN CONTAINERS IN THE R-O-W

A request by the Guild of Beaufort Galleries to allow open containers in the right-of-way during the ArtWalk on Charles and Boundary Streets scheduled for Saturday October 27, 2007 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. was presented to Council.

Councilman Sutton made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Kelley, to approve the request. The vote was unanimous.

REQUEST FOR CITY TO CO-SPONSOR LIGHT UP THE NIGHT BOAT PARADE

Main Street Beaufort, USA submitted a request for the City to co-sponsor the Light Up the Night Boat Parade on Saturday, December 8, 2007 in the Waterfront Park from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Fordham, second by Councilman O'Kelley, Council approved the request.

REQUEST TO CLOSE 1600 BLOCK OF BOUNDARY STREET

A request from the Department of Veterans Affairs to close the 1600 block of Boundary Street from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to reduce traffic noise during the Veterans Day Ceremony was presented to Council.

On motion by Councilman Fordham, second by Councilman Sutton, the request was unanimously approved.

REQUEST TO WAIVE WATERFRONT PARK FEES FOR FUND RAISER

A request was submitted on behalf of the Rett Syndrome Research Foundation to waive the fees for the fundraising event on November 3, 2007.

Due to the lack of information submitted, Councilman O'Kelley moved to table the request. Councilman Fordham gave second. The vote to table was unanimous.

REQUEST TO CLOSE PORTION OF STREET FOR KIRKING OF THE TARTANS

A request from the First Presbyterian Church to close a portion of Church Street between Craven and North Streets on Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, November 4th, to allow time to erect a tent, for a luncheon after the Kirking of the Tartans Service and to conduct a Parade of the Tartans and Bag Pipes after the service on Sunday, beginning at 12:15 proceeding east on Craven Street to Charles Street and back.

On motion by Councilman O'Kelley, second by Councilman Sutton, Council approved the request..

REQUEST TO CLOSE THE 1600 BLOCK OF BOUNDARY STREET

A request by the Sankofa Restoration, Inc. to close the 1600 block of Boundary Street from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to conduct a special Veterans Day Ceremony on November 10, 2007 and to have the fees waived for police security was presented to Council.

On motion by Councilman O'Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, Council tabled the request until the representative arrived.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager distributed an After Action Report on the Shout Fest held in the Waterfront Park this past weekend, a memo from the Tour Coordinator regarding carriage tours, updates on a stormwater catch basin assessment program, Waterfront Park capstone repair, and an outline for the maintenance of the Waterfront Park.

Councilman Sutton questioned why this festival was set up differently than other festivals. Councilman O'Kelley also noted that the horse carriages were relocated to Bay Street. The City Manager explained during the final stages of planning, the festival representatives decided to use their tractor trailer stage and the event was moved to the other end of the Park. Mr. Sutton remarked that it was bigger than anyone envisioned; however, staff had to make last minute arrangements by moving the carriage tours, barricades were around public facilities that were not planned, etc. He asked why the barricades were not moved as soon as the event was over instead of depriving citizens use of the boat ramp and businesses from using the areas they lease from the City. He suggested developing a policy that if fencing is used, it must be removed at the end of the event even if the applicant has to pay staff extra. The City Manager pointed out the Park is not built for events of that size. Mr. O'Kelley added that the Downtown Marina is the City's tenant and they rely on the ability to travel back and forth.

COUNCIL REPORTS

SUTTON: Councilman Sutton reported that he noticed the pavers have been stacked and flagged at the Waterfront Park. It appears the repairs are moving forward. The City Manager stated there is a contract and this is a warranty issue so the damage will have to be recovered. Mr. Sutton also commented that the entire Marina wall area is problematic. He asked how long the repairs to the sea wall have been needed.

Regarding the Block by Block grant, he said Operation Good Neighbor continues to work. The trees he mentioned a couple of meetings ago, have been removed by staff and has improved the value of the block. It appears the picket fence will be able to be replaced. He noted that volunteers are needed.

FORDHAM: Councilman Fordham complimented the City Manager for the response he made to the concerns raised by Edie Rodgers concerning the referendum.

Also, at the last meeting, he indicated he would like to have an update on the storm water drainage project. He asked the status. The City Manager said there is a progress report on catch basin assessments through October 22, 2007 that he handed out earlier. Of the 222 catch basins assessed, 24 are impaired. A cleaning scheduled is being created with Beaufort County.

REQUEST TO CLOSE THE 1600 BLOCK OF BOUNDARY STREET

A request by the Sankofa Restoration, Inc. to close the 1600 block of Boundary Street from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to conduct a special Veterans Day Ceremony on November 10, 2007 and to have the fees waived for police security was presented to Council.

Howard Wright, Executive Director of the Sankofa Restoration Project, informed Council it has been 142 years since the end of the Civil War. Beaufort County is home to the first colored troops. Over 3,000 colored men served in that war and over 1,000 are buried in the National Cemetery. A

lengthy report is being prepared concerning the analysis. A celebration for the descendants of those soldiers will take place at the National Cemetery on the 10th of November. During the past thirty years, the Restoration Project has identified all of the Civil War veterans that fought in Beaufort County and determined where they are buried. The Project members are working with the Veterans Administration to provide the information for the 3,000 large granite stones to be placed at the graves of those soldiers in their church cemeteries. Also, a national museum for the U.S. color troops is being planned for Hilton Head that will hold all their records, he said.

Councilman O'Kelley inquired about the cost to provide security for the event. The City Manager replied the contract would be for four officers from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at a cost of about \$600.00 and this event is not budgeted.

Councilman Fordham stated he has a problem with closing Boundary Street for three hours. Mr. Wright said this is an historical event since it is the first time an event such as this has been held. Councilman Sutton agreed it is an important event and the National Cemetery is important to the City. Therefore, Council should be considering how to fund it. Councilman O'Kelley said that is also a problem for him and asked the City Manager how it will be funded. The City Manager replied through the personnel line item because there are times throughout the year that there are vacancies.

Councilman Sutton moved to take the item off the table. Councilman O'Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Sutton, second by Councilman O'Kelley, Council approved closing the 1600 block for the event and to waive the fees for the police.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Councilman O'Kelley, second by Councilman Fordham, 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.

OPEN SESSION

Upon returning to Open Session, Councilman O'Kelley moved to submit the Greenlawn Project to the Redevelopment Commission. Councilman Sutton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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