

A special meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 12, 2008 immediately after the Redevelopment Commission meeting in the City Hall Conference Room, 302 Carteret Street. In attendance were Mayor 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 4:55 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Sutton, Council moved 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 and pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 70(a)(1) to the SC Code of Laws, a discussion of appointment of a person to a public body, namely the Historic Design Review Board.

### **OPEN SESSION/UPDATE ON BOUNDARY STREET TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

Upon returning to Open Session, the City Manager gave an update on the Boundary Street Project stating Council asked for the cost of a "T" intersection and a roundabout. He said the Boundary Street Master Plan considers either a "T" or a Roundabout at the two main intersections. The engineering is nearing completion with the width of rights-of-way required and the cost estimates. It has been stated by the engineer the City has enough money with both impact fees and the one percent sales tax to construct both intersections and the street improvements in between. He stated even though there is not enough money to construct the parallel road, it is important to know how it perpendicularly intersects with the main road.

The engineering firm, Kimley-Horn, has made construction drawings and decisions need to be made regarding a roundabout or a "T" intersection. SCDOT has reviewed the plans and has agreed either one will be acceptable. The report stated a "T" intersection will work better at the Boundary Street and Highway 170 (Robert Smalls Parkway) intersection. The intersection at Boundary Street and Ribaut Road would perform at an A or B level with the use of a roundabout. Additionally, both styles conform to the Master Plan but the roundabout was the preferred option. The cost for a roundabout is about 14% or \$500,000 more than a signalized intersection; however, there is no operating cost which is approximately \$5,000 annually or power consumption which is about \$500 per year. Besides performing better at Ribaut and Boundary it results in shorter delays therefore, resulting in fuel savings and reduced vehicular emissions. Studies have shown that roundabouts are safer, particularly with respect to severe accidents. He asked Council which recommendation is preferred so the engineers can finalize the engineers and go to bid.

Mayor O'Kelley stated the "T" intersection at Boundary Street (Highway 21) and Robert Smalls Parkway (Highway 170) will be better than the series of signals there now. The City Manager mentioned that the engineering firm has been meeting with the stake holders in that area for the past

six months discussing design and cost objections, ingress/egress, etc. He also mentioned that the construction of Walgreens drug store happened before the ordinance was in place. There were negotiations with them; however, that their building is placed in such a way that there can be a slip lane in front of the store without injuring their business and they turned over a right-of-way behind the store for the parallel road. It was restated that there will be many years before this project and the parallel road will be completed.

Council discussed the two intersections and expressed their thoughts. Councilman Fordham expressed his concerns with existing traffic signals at Marsh Drive and Duke Street. The City Manager replied that issue was discussed with SCDOT and they feel that the signals can be synchronized to work.

Councilwoman Beer moved to accept the recommendations of the engineer for the “T” intersection at Highways 170 and 21 and a roundabout at Ribaut Road and Boundary Street. Councilman Sutton seconded the motion. Council members Beer, Sutton, and O’Kelley voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Fordham voted nay. The motion carried 3 to 1.

#### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SIB**

The City Manager stated this is actually a letter of support for the County to make application to the State Infrastructure Bank for road improvements at SC 802, SC 170, Boundary Street (US 21) at the northern crossing, and the Bluffton Parkway/US 278A.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Sutton, Council approved the resolution of support.

#### **REPORTS**

**Traffic Lights:** A positive response regarding the traffic lights has been received from the State. The City is paid by SCDOT to manage the traffic lights which did mean replacing bulbs. Since the bridge accident, the lights are controlled in Charleston. The problem is the City can’t monitor or be proactive with the system. The State was asked to allow the City access to go into the system so it can be monitored on a daily basis.

**Leaf Pickup:** Councilman Sutton commenting on the recent storm, asked about the citizens trying to bundle the limbs since the ordinance specifies the limbs must be bundled for pickup. He is concerned that they will not be picked up. The City Manager stated they are trying to encourage people to assemble their debris in one area of their property for easier pickup. He agreed that needs to be clarified. Mr. Sutton said the storm drains are clogged and the street sweeper cannot get to that.

**Day Dock Report:** The day dock report by the Waterway Commission will be on the August 26, 2008 Council agenda. Mayor O’Kelley commented that he noticed the Committee distributed sign up sheets regarding different options.

**Tree Trimming:** Councilwoman Beer stated she received a copy of Mr. Mulligan’s reply regarding the recent tree trimming on Ribaut Road. She said she understands the SCDOT has the right to trim the trees in their r-o-w; however, she would like that to be addressed in an ordinance so everyone is

aware of when they have scheduled trimming or let the City conduct the tree trimming.

**Parking Garage:** The City Manager reported that the developer is planning to delay his application for the parking garage. The developer has become frustrated trying to follow the process. The Main Street Parking Committee has been meeting on the concept of a parking garage. He asked Council how they would like to proceed to keep the process going. The parking meters will be moved from West Street to the parking lot. Councilman Sutton mentioned that the City has a vested interest with 27 spaces in the lot and therefore, needs to assist Main Street which is comprised of merchants and downtown business owners. He recommended holding a meeting. The Historic Review Board has purview over architectural design and they need to be provided plans for review.

**Fire Impact Fee:** The City Manager stated the impact fee group of the City and the Town of Port Royal is meeting with the Planning Commission and the Fire Department to complete the report for presentation to Council. Mayor O’Kelley said he would like to meet with the City Manager to review the impact fees for a better understanding. The City Manager offered to prepare an audit of the fees the City participates in for Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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GEORGE H. O’KELLEY, JR., MAYOR

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

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COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

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COUNCILMAN MIKE SUTTON

ATTEST:

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BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK