

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 7, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Planning Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Council members Donnie Ann Beer, Mike Sutton, Mike McFee, and City Manager Scott Dadson.

In accordance with the 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.

Mayor Keyserling called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **FY 2012 BUDGET – POLICE, FIRE, AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Dadson reviewed the draft budget sheets which council had received in a packet. He explained why they would see some line items because of the ways the dollars were distributed for grant purposes. Some items are grant-matched, but they are segregated in the accounting system.

Police Chief **Matt Clancy** summarized 2010 and where the police department is going with its budget. The department is authorized for 45 sworn officers; “effective sworn” is 43, he said, which is “fabulous.” There is a vacancy for which someone will be sworn in later this month and another officer who’s in field training who will be ready to go soon. He enumerated other personnel, some part-time and some volunteer.

Comparing crimes in 2009 and 2010, he said they had 4077 reported crimes in 2009; for 2010 they had 3838 reported crimes. He compared statistics on Big 7 crimes (murder, rape, robbery) between 2009 and 2010. Calls for service in 2009 were around 60,000 and numbered 94,000 in 2010. Officer originated calls outnumbered citizen-originated calls. The number of traffic tickets issued dropped but warnings went up. There was a jump in criminal domestic violence cases, but the number of DUIs dropped in 2010.

The Community Response Team they wanted to initiate last year is being formed now and notice has been sent to officers interested in participating. When they need someone for something that comes up, they will draw from this pool. They are putting a push on to get people more involved in crime prevention on their own properties. Most larcenies are of unsecured property like vehicles left unlocked or with windows open, Chief Clancy said.

They have a good group of officers with “depth,” Chief Clancy said. “They are thoughtful and intelligent officers” who are interacting with citizens and getting along with other public service people. He’s been surprised to see in other communities that the departments are at war (police vs. sheriff, etc.) but that’s not the case here.

Mr. Dadson said Chief Clancy should point out capital acquisitions. Mr. Dadson said “in capital, this is a pay-as-you-go, non-financed style.” Therefore, the number is large. The budget reflects a 7% increase in insurance costs. The largest single item, though, is capital.

Chief Clancy said they are asking for four marked patrol cars that will go with the vehicle replacement program they've been working on. They're going to less expensive cars to replace those with 111,000-129,000 miles on them. They also want to replace detective vehicles with high mileage on them. They are looking at a Chevrolet Caprice for investigators' cars to save money. They want to replace 11 tasers. Taser has a smaller model now to substitute for the larger models officers currently have that are wearing out. Also, they are looking at replacing their shotguns which were originally purchased by the SC Department of Highways.

Chief Clancy said as they have been planning, they have been looking at the prices on many things that have gone up a little bit. They get fuel surcharges added on to much that they buy now. The biggest increase in the budget is \$55,566 more for fuel this year. They are projecting \$4 a gallon now.

Chief Clancy said they are eliminating some maintenance to save money with a more modern, efficient fleet. The publications, subscriptions and dues account is going up a little, Chief Clancy said, because of computer program licensing fees. They are acquiring a new program to monitor pawn shop activity nationwide.

Mr. Dadson said because of the life expectancy on rolling stock and other investments, he recommends "paying as you go" on these capital items. Councilman McFee said almost every department has vehicles as a line item, and he asked what that line item is for. Mr. Dadson said it is for liability insurance.

Total O&M for the police department is \$3,920,529, Mr. Dadson said. \$59,686 is Victims Rights, Mr. Dadson said. They have accommodated overtime, fuels, acquisitions and a full fleet of personnel, including a full contingent of full-time employees. "It's tight," Mr. Dadson said, "but it's no more of anything than last year."

Councilman McFee asked about the line item for contractual services. Chief Clancy said it may be part of building maintenance, and Mr. Dadson said he'd look into it. Councilman McFee noted "facilities maintenance" in another section. Chief Clancy said they hired more people last year and hopefully won't have turn-over, but it's in there just in case. The deputy chief has done a good job on finances this year, Chief Clancy said. Everything that is bought, he has found a different vendor or a different way to package it. They have stayed well within budget this year.

Councilman Sutton asked if council would receive more in terms of the budget numbers. Mr. Dadson said they'll get more for the next batch. Councilman Sutton asked about the radar trailer. Chief Clancy showed the statistic book for it. He said it's "a great tool," and while it's tracking speeds, it keeps track of statistics, such as high and low speeds. The monitor will show if there are excessive speeds, but those won't show on the display board. When they get

speeding complaints in an area, officers go to “the hot spot and run radar.” They use that to put the radar trailer in. They get speeding complaints and then the trailer will show if there’s a problem at a certain time or if it’s a perception. Statistically, they wrote fewer tickets this year than last year, and when they were short on manpower, they had one officer only doing traffic. Now that they’re up to speed, the numbers may go back up. A problem area can get radar and write any tickets in a neighborhood response area that needs it.

Councilman Sutton asked about cameras on mastheads, and Mr. Dadson said they are county monitoring cameras. Mayor Keyserling said he watched the county channel, and it showed the rotating traffic cameras. Chief Clancy said they have a big TV in their training room, and they can see the county traffic cameras there.

Councilman Sutton said traffic enforcement is a big part of the public’s perception of what the police do. A discussion ensued about various traffic issues and police action in that regard. Councilman Sutton said every year they have Officer Carter working downtown in collateral duties, and he asked how they can determine how much time is spent doing patrols in the core commercial area. There’s been an increase in hanging out on street corners and around the General Store, Councilman Sutton said. This has come up again. They are trying to work with the Lodge and the Cricket store for more leeway, Chief Clancy said; the loiterers are technically on private property. If they are breaking the law, they can get them for that, but it’s usually just an eyesore.

They are revitalizing the bicycle patrol, Chief Clancy said. They just had all 7 of them worked on and all are serviceable. Councilman Sutton said there’s a private bar there, and he asked how that situation where the general store is could be tightened up. Chief Clancy said a lot have trespass notices. There is a house there that Councilman Sutton called “a safe haven.” Chief Clancy said a lot of the activity Councilman Sutton referred to is on private property, and it’s not a pleasant situation, but it’s not against the law for people to drink in their yards. Councilman Sutton said they “spent a couple million dollars on the block.” The core group is not the problem; there’s an increase in numbers, and people he doesn’t know, so some more vigilance might be helpful.

Chief Clancy said that’s the only district that has officers there full time. Officer Carter is down there during the day, and a D District officer is assigned at night who doesn’t leave that area unless he or she is compelled to.

Councilman Sutton asked about the Waterfront Park area which was problematic last year. Chief Clancy said juveniles go down there, and the new owner of Panini’s is cooperative. Off-duty officers work in pairs on foot patrol back there. It’s an overtime opportunity, Chief Clancy said, and they’re not always there, but they’re in uniform. Juveniles who hang around down there go there for the same reasons as others. He’s looked at places that have a curfew, but the

history of why other places have them is due to major crimes. In Beaufort, there is occasionally a fight that draws a big crowd.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

**Isaiah Smalls** went over operational objectives for 2012. Parks improvements are being continued, he said. In traffic control, they “are swapping out heads” and are looking to improve three additional mast arms in the Charles Street corridor via a grant. They are continuing to improve traffic control equipment. They can monitor, and staff can go in, too, Mr. Smalls said. in response to Mayor Keyserling’s question. Mr. Dadson said their engineering expertise and the city’s ability to handle O&M and resend quickly and well has worked out well. Mr. Smalls said there are 2 men from the city and 2 from the county. The county specializes in engineering and Public Works in maintenance.

Solid waste continues with an existing contract and efforts to reduce complaints, Mr. Smalls said. They want to increase recycling rates and education about waste preparation. Mayor Keyserling asked about the complaints, and Mr. Smalls iterated some of them, i.e., new drivers, a greater amount of waste at holidays, methodology of recycling. Mr. Smalls said they are working with contractors because they didn’t understand the volume that they would get at first. The bagging ordinance was never repealed, and they prefer that they discourage landscapers from putting out huge trees they take down, so the public needs to be educated. Moderate lawn waste is not a problem but there are issues with large trees being taken down. Councilman Sutton said some of that is the landscaping companies’ fault. Councilman Sutton said legit companies don’t leave it. Mr. Smalls said sometimes they do.

In the street department, they will be assessing streets for repaving, according to Mr. Smalls. The paving cycle is every two years. They will be forwarding a list to council for review and prioritization. Bladen Street is underway in design. The street lighting assessment and work plan zones are being developed to replace lights downtown. Mr. Dadson said that’s in capital long-term, then said it’s in the TIFs / capital acquisition.

Mayor Keyserling asked Mr. Smalls about “the dreadful yellow signs” on Bay, Ribaut, etc. from DOT. He asked if there was something that could be done about them. Mr. Smalls said he hasn’t asked DOT about it, but he can, and he assumes it would be difficult to get them removed. Mayor Keyserling said in some places they seem too big for the right-of-way.

Councilman McFee said the streets signs on the traffic signals are helpful, though. Mayor Keyserling asked about the exploration of commercial recycling. He gets a lot of questions about it. There was going to be a pilot program, Councilman McFee said, and Mayor Keyserling said Lantz Price was considering that. Mr. Smalls said they would reignite that conversation this week. Mayor Keyserling said Port Royal’s solid waste fee was proposed to go up. Mr. Dadson said the subject was broached with them, and there were discussions, but they seem to not have gone in that direction.

Mr. Smalls said in streets, there is to be an evaluation of tripping hazards on sidewalks in the core commercial district. Councilwoman Beer mentioned a particular sidewalk near the Bay Street clock. Mr. Smalls said river birches have a huge, intrusive root system.

Councilman Sutton asked the overall change in the Public Works budget bottom line. Mr. Smalls said it was a proposed decrease in their contract for services. Mr. Dadson described the increases and decrease in streets, parks, traffic control maintenance, stormwater, and solid waste. Mr. Smalls is staying around 24% of total budget, Mr. Dadson said, for all the things they manage.

Councilman Sutton said insurance went down for Public Works. Mr. Smalls said the cost went down relative to the city paying 100%; most Public Works employees are paying a portion, not getting total coverage.

Councilman Sutton asked about the trash pick-up for holiday schedule; the past Memorial Day, he said, he couldn't find a holiday schedule listed for waste anywhere on the web. Mr. Smalls said he'd look at this. Councilman Sutton said it would be simple to fix on the web site.

Councilman Sutton said he was curious about roll cans and piles of trash put on the curb. He asked how the process of the cans that are left there after pick-up works in terms of policy and who is enforcing that. Mr. Smalls said reporting left cans was a condition of the contract, and Public Works does the enforcement. Public Works gets complaints from a neighbor who complains about another neighbor; someone looks for cans that shouldn't be out and reports; the contractor should have their drivers report, too, if cans are out when they shouldn't be. Councilman Sutton asked if the city is proactive in making sure that the community knows what to do. He's gotten calls from citizens asking who's supposed to do something about it. Mr. Dadson said the city will respond to complaints and they spot check periodically. Councilman Sutton said he wants to know if Public Works is doing it. Mr. Smalls said Public Works does spot-check, and someone goes out and looks for violators and someone notes it proactively if they see it. Mr. Smalls gave the number to call for piles of trash.

Councilman Sutton asked about an increase in electrical costs in streets and electricity; Mr. Smalls said those are street lights with anticipated SCE&G rate hikes.

Councilman Sutton asked about Christmas decorations and flags. Light poles are to be changed. He believes it's labor intensive and expensive to decorate them, but the public loves them. He asked what they are spending on decorations since the rope lights on the poles are going away. Mr. Smalls said for the new poles, the rope lights will be done this year. They are looking at halos for future holidays; it is hard to get a consensus from merchants. The rope lights are neutral. **Nan Sutton** said 8 years ago, they got the rope lights, and Main Street Beaufort voted on it. She said a Bluffton company was doing it. Mr. Smalls said the mini lights were too expensive. The ropes were cheap, and they didn't think about labor. People loved them so

much that the city realized it should go further down the streets, down Carteret, Charles, etc. Councilman Sutton would like the process simplified and feels a committee shouldn't decide it. Mr. Smalls said they were going to experiment with a halo that would go around the light and clap on the pole. It would look like a wreath in the day and be illuminated at night. Councilman McFee asked the time frame for this. Mr. Smalls said they're meeting with SCE&G to get a time frame. They can't do a simple swap out. Councilwoman Beer said she doesn't like the plug-ins at the top. Mayor Keyserling said everyone will plug and unplug them if they're not at the top.

Mr. Smalls said if the new design works out, the fixture and plugs will be at the top. Councilman Sutton said the poles in the festival areas need to have outlets in proper numbers. Mr. Smalls said they had discussed it with SCE&G and they won't put a gang on a light pole; it would need to be metered. Councilman Sutton said they need power for festivals. Mr. Smalls said when they were looking to power the parking kiosks, it was a major challenge, so they went with solar. Mr. Dadson said they could ask about a solar option. Councilman Sutton said they need plugs on the street, and they can't seem to accomplish it. Mr. Smalls said it might happen, and he's not giving up on it. Councilman Sutton said he understands what the problem is. Councilman McFee asked if they couldn't do something like the gang in the park. Councilman Sutton said they have two locations on Bay that have been used in the past. Mr. Smalls said they have the ability at Freedom Mall.

Councilman Sutton asked about an increase in stormwater heavy equip maintenance. Mr. Smalls said all heavy equipment is in stormwater now by transfer. It's up \$14,000, Councilman Sutton said. He asked why water and sewer under stormwater has increased. Mr. Smalls said they use a lot of water in their hydro-method. They attach to a fire hydrant and BJWSA meters. Councilman Sutton said they get it coming and going; that's existing systems maintenance, and that's not covered by the stormwater fee. Mr. Dadson said it is covered. The stormwater fee is for both.

Councilman Sutton asked what Inland Marine means to Mr. Smalls, and Mr. Smalls said it's insurance. Mr. Dadson said "We aren't recommending any rate increases at this time."

Andy Kinghorn will be met with next week, Mr. Smalls said, and they're training him on policy. Councilman Sutton asked "the next step to get him a vote in that commission." Mr. Dadson said they would "have to let the county be the stormwater people." Mr. Dadson said there's the stormwater management system and the intergovernmental agreement. "In the intergovernmental agreement, we wield more negotiating ability," he said, adding that they agree on costs, education, cooperation, etc. There's more negotiating than in the general agreements. Mr. Smalls said, "We have a voice at the table, and there's more action there."

Councilman Sutton said he's concerned with sustainability with The Greenery. Mr. Smalls said when they took over, the city was in a state of deferred maintenance, so there was a lot of expense, and now they're transitioning into a maintenance phase. The Greenery is developing a

new program to make it sustainable. Mr. Dadson discussed the lengths of the 2 contracts with The Greenery.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Keyserling said he'd "sent a letter to Lady's Island," and "they'd suggested that they stay the course of the 80% of their millage." They learned in Burton that they are incremental costs, not hard costs, so instead of automatically extending the agreement, they should sit and talk about the future.

Fire Chief **Sammy Negron** said the difference in the budget last year compared to the new fiscal year is \$474,967. The "big ticket item" is the possibility of replacing the 1998 big tower platform with a smaller apparatus. \$74,000 is for replacing another vehicle and they have a plan for doing that.

### **Prevention**

They met with the Office of Civic Investment and the Midtown project developers and others. Chief Negron felt these were "good opportunities to build safer communities," and they contacted some of their connections in fire protection to explore opportunities to promote the installation of sprinkler systems in the Midtown project on Bladen. They want to greatly reduce the hazard on these new projects.

They are perusing a fire prevention grant for \$165,000 from the Department of Homeland Security to implement a program of door-to-door residential inspection, Chief Negron said. They are continuing to conduct educational programs in schools and have spread out these duties to the whole department. They want to do fire-related training; they gave the opportunity to every employee at the Beaufort Memorial Hospital, for example. The analysis and data collection opens doors to do things differently, Chief Negron said. Also they want to include fire prevention technology in the construction of facilities. The Office of Civic Investment people have been present for this on occasion.

### **Operations**

They continue to experience a low incidence of structure fires, Chief Negron said. Last year, there were 10 in the city and 2 in the Town of Port Royal. There were 8 in the city for this year. They have seen a decrease in the amount of medical calls, though they don't know the reason. He said 75% of calls were handled by the new vehicles, not the big fire truck responding to medical calls. Also, when they go to an accident, it's a fender bender 9 out of 10 times, and they don't send the fire truck to that. The same is true of fire alarms. There's less possibility for a big fire truck to get in an accident, and they spend less on gas, etc.

Councilman McFee asked about the \$26,000 increase in uniforms. Chief Negron said that line item was neglected last year. They have had the bare minimum, and they wear through those quickly. They get two sets of pants and t-shirts. The big ticket item on uniforms is the bunker

gear, Chief Negron said, as they are starting to replace a certain number of bunker sets every year.

The first responder program, Chief Negron said, is giving the county and the dispatch center an opportunity to implement the consultants' ideas. The 911 dispatcher training on screening "is the big one." Once they are ready to do that, it will reduce the number of medical calls responded to. The CRA Study gave notice of the lack of need for fire departments to be certified; now they are EMT basics, and "there's nothing they can't do as a first responder." They will allow the county to implement the recommendations, Chief Negron said, and at that time they'll meet and discuss fire department training and the calls they'll respond to, as well as establishing a partnership with them for the same levels of certification.

They will continue to improve the efficiency of the QRVs. They are "trying to be good neighbors with the Town of Port Royal," Chief Negron said.

The department's lieutenants all have the same rank, so three will all be promoted to captain, Chief Negron said, and they hope that will lead to a better division of labor.

#### Training

They took a crew of four and split it between the small vehicles and the fire trucks. They want to increase multi-jurisdictional training, according to Chief Negron.

#### Maintenance

For the first time, all fire apparatuses were taken care of according to recommendations and national standards, Chief Negron said. They're trying to reduce the apparatus fleet. There was an overabundance of apparatus in the past. By ISO standards, there needs to be a reserve pumper for every five in service, and one truck for every eight in service. That means there was a one-for-one ratio, Chief Negron said. They started purging the fleet last year of unnecessary equipment. They replaced two reserve apparatus. They have three that they think are in excess still, and they would like to release them. The truck was built in 1998, and the cost was \$1.2 million. The mileage is low and it is used mostly in parades. It's never served Beaufort to the best of its ability because of its size; it was too big for the fire department's needs. They learned with the big fleet that they retain fire apparatuses too long, and they have no value but as scrap by the time they decide to sell them. At the 15-year mark, the value of this truck will go down, Chief Negron said. They can get \$300,000 for it, and if they throw in the other two engines, they can get \$344,000. If they sell them, \$643,000 is the cost of the new aerial. They will still get a good return on a vehicle they never benefitted from and can put a new unit in service.

Councilman Sutton asked about what Port Royal has for a ladder truck. Chief Negron replied that it has an 85' aerial platform. It's nine years old. Councilman Sutton asked how many ladder trucks are needed in the area. Chief Negron said the ISO evaluation said that the joint operation has given them an evaluation saying they need at least three engines and two aerials, one out

and one in reserve. Councilman Sutton said he wonders about Port Royal's ladder truck in the inventory and swapping equipment. The reserve is Port Royal's, and they need to keep the ladder truck. Chief Negrón said they'll be responsible for replacing it.

The Town of Port Royal has its own ISO rating, Chief Negrón said, and Beaufort has its own ISO rating. It's one department managing two ISO ratings for 2 communities; he'd like them both to be under one ISO rating for both the Town of Port Royal and Beaufort. Mayor Keyserling said the ratings are separate and he asked what Beaufort's is. If both departments were under one rating, it wouldn't result in a decrease in either rating. They need to be evaluated as a single jurisdiction. Councilman Sutton said Beaufort's can only increase by improving water efficiency. He asked what Port Royal's deficiency was that can be corrected; training is one and there's "a lack of capability to provide water service to the undeveloped parts of town," Chief Negrón replied. Councilman Sutton agreed there should be a discussion about what the ramifications are of having one rating; he'd like to be educated on that, and he's unsure that it will make a difference for future fire departments.

The depreciation rate for trucks is high, Councilman Sutton said. He would encourage them to test the waters in other venues for resale. Chief Negrón said they had done that; they had it appraised and approached dealers who deal in used fire trucks.

Mayor Keyserling asked how to fully integrate as one fire department. Mr. Dadson said "the joint station at the nexus between jurisdictions and the joint ISO rating will create the right relationship." The ISO rating is "from a commercial perspective"; that's where the greatest amount of savings can be maximized. Chief Negrón said when they replace a piece of equipment, if they're one ISO rating, they can join together and share cost. There shouldn't be an argument against sharing an ISO rating, Chief Negrón said. They are educating the Town of Port Royal council on the approach, which he feels is the right one.

Mr. Dadson said he's done a pay-as-you-go perspective on the fire department. When the budget is passed, there's an eighteen-month lag time so they can recapture any costs if there's cash flow pressure, and they can borrow that amount with no problem. He's concerned about financing police cars. There's concern for debt service in regard to the fire truck; by the end of June, they have final numbers on the current fiscal year. He's worried in 2013, not 2012, because reassessment comes into play and the county is looking to drop assessed real and personal property perspective. He's recommended cashing out, and not borrowing on rolling stock. 2013 concerns him for carry-over debt.

Councilman Sutton asked Chief Negrón if he'd looked at trading for a smaller ladder with another fire company that wants a 100-footer. It might be better to visit fire departments, instead of brokers to see if they can trade.

Councilman Sutton asked about fuel costs increasing when the equipment is getting smaller. There's a jump from \$25,000 to \$42,000. Chief Negrón said it's due to a suspected rise in fuel costs. Chief Negrón said there's a 15% fuel contingency for higher fuel costs. They "fear setting themselves too lean," and then having fuel prices increase. Mr. Dadson explained how they determine each department's fuel budget; the fuel line item is a planning tool, and they need slack to avoid having to take it out of other line items.

Councilman Sutton asked about "Supplies, Non-office," which showed a dramatic increase of \$20,000 over last year. Chief Negrón said "that's the catch-all." He said that's radios to replace and upgrade, etc. They had to replace very old extraction equipment that had been postponed for years. Councilman McFee asked why that's not capital, and Mr. Dadson said "because they're less than \$5000 apiece." Councilman McFee said they don't want to short-change themselves on equipment.

Councilman Sutton asked about the door-to-door grant. He said he wants to make it clear that it's a volunteer program. People don't want government to have the right to come into a home without a specific reason. They need to ask people when they are offering a free inspection and smoke alarms, not tell people they have to have them. Chief Negrón said this is a trend in the UK and Europe; the firefighters are active in the neighborhoods doing that. Mayor Keyserling said it's a service, not a mandate.

Chief Negrón said they have gotten an estimate for headquarters improvement. They were quoted \$40,000 for floors, ceiling tiles, etc. \$20,000 was the estimate for Station 3. Mr. Dadson said the city's and Town of Port Royal's finance groups "scrub" the budgets to avoid redundancy when possible.

### **COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Dadson asked council members if they wanted to affirm the new meeting schedule, which was supposed to go through May. There was general agreement that it is working fine. Mr. Dadson said it's better for staff and is more predictable for council.

### **COMMERCE PARK**

Mayor Keyserling said he had mentioned to council members individually that he was hugely disappointed to see the commerce park go away. The city isn't in a position to buy it, and it may not be for sale, but many Lowcountry Economic Network people have asked him, prior to them going out of business, or scaling back, what council felt about annexing the park into the city. He said he has responded that council would entertain a petition. Services could be streamlined in the regulatory process. It's on the following day's Lowcountry Economic Network meeting agenda where they will decide what they're doing. There are strong feelings that they would like to bring it into the city. Mayor Keyserling said it would be brought up, and he thinks there's significant support for it. He said anything they can do to enhance a more diverse economic environment would be embraced. They haven't solicited or discouraged it, Mayor Keyserling

said. Councilman McFee said they are capable of doing it geographically, and it's contiguous to city property.

### **MAIN STREET BEAUFORT**

Mayor Keyserling asked if Main Street Beaufort's budget was part of the city manager's budget, and Mr. Dadson said it is. It's funded by agreements set in place, and it's "part of their budget units." Mayor Keyserling said he's concerned that it's time to look at Main Street Beaufort's mission and charter and whether those are being fulfilled to their best potential. The purpose when it started was to take Main Streets that weren't growing and make them grow. If they're looking at money allocation, he believes there's a need for a partner with the Redevelopment Commission to recruit and maintain businesses and not just those businesses on one street.

Ms. Sutton said she thinks that's a good question. Main Street Beaufort's always struggled in their definition of its mission. They want to have the events; there's little staff, and it's a difficult balance, she said. Mayor Keyserling said there's a mission nationally, and he wondered if the local Main Street Beaufort is on that course. If they're looking at additional opportunities, might they want to see that money going toward what needs to be done? he asked.

Councilwoman Beer said the Main Street program was not to be a permanent line item; it was budgeted for "until they got on their feet, but that's never happened." Mayor Keyserling said he was "talking about the base at the moment." Mr. Dadson said council always has the purview to look at that relationship. Mayor Keyserling said he's going to do some research and see if what's being done is what should be done. Ms. Sutton said there's "no watchdog looking to see which merchants need to keep what they have and to look at who's coming in and going out" of the downtown area. Mayor Keyserling said there was a broader mix of property owners in downtown before than there is now. Ms. Sutton said that never came to fruition five years ago when they tried.

Mayor Keyserling said he can't get anyone from Main Street Beaufort to say the percentage of merchants downtown who are members of Main Street Beaufort. Councilman Sutton said there's that organization, the VCB, and the Chamber of Commerce; he asked, "Who's the marketing arm? Why isn't the Chamber of Commerce involved?" The VCB is the marketing arm and the three-part approach is what's needed, Councilman McFee said. The ATAX budget is coming soon, Councilman Sutton said, and he wants to know who the marketing arm is before that discussion is had. Mayor Keyserling said the Chamber of Commerce remains the designated marketing organization (DMO), but they fund the VCB. Councilman Sutton said it should be council's decision. Councilman McFee said not funding the DMO is unlikely. Mayor Keyserling said they could deal directly with council instead of brokering it. Mayor Keyserling said he's wondered what the city could do itself with the marketing money. Mr. Dadson said council is "creating visions and marketing plans for what they want." They need to maximize concern for all involved. Councilman Sutton said "the pie may need to be redesigned."

**REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Councilman McFee said the Redevelopment Commission is working on selling the Old City Hall, and there's a good prospect in negotiation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK