

A regular session of Beaufort City Council was held on January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Councilwoman Nan Sutton, Councilmen Stephen Murray, Mike McFee, and Phil Cromer, and Bill Prokop, city manager.

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the regular council meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROCLAMATION

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the proclamation of Ta’Ni Miller as the Beaufort Middle School student of the month. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman McFee read the proclamation, and Mayor Keyserling presented it to Ms. Miller.

PROCLAMATION COMMENDING HM1 ROGER ANDERSON AND HM2 RAUL DELARIVAESPINOZA FOR THEIR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS DURING SHRIMP FEST 2018

Ms. Roper said these men performed a number of important functions for the city’s first Shrimp Festival. **Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to commend Roger Anderson and Raul Delarivaespinoza. The motion passed unanimously.** Councilman McFee read the proclamation, and Mayor Keyserling presented it to Mr. Anderson and Mr. Delarivaespinoza.

MINUTES

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the minutes of the council work session and regular meeting December 11, 2018. Councilman Cromer said on page 1, in the first sentence of last paragraph, the word “outsider” should be “outside.” **The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.**

ADOPTION BY REFERENCE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO BEAUFORT COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 14 ANIMALS

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to adopt the changes to the ordinance on first reading. Mr. Prokop said the police chief has reviewed this and is very happy with it. **Tallulah Trice** said Beaufort County Animal Services is very happy with this ordinance, too; it lessens punishments for first offenses, for example, and in places where this is done, there are very few appeals because animal services organizations work with the animals’ owners.

CITY REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT TO BEAUFORT COUNTY STORMWATER BOARD

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to appoint Neil Desai to the stormwater board. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Prokop said there has been a fire at Walmart on Robert Smalls Parkway, but it was "only in the deli." The store has been closed, but it will probably open up later tonight. He added that the fire department is offering any businesses training in using fire extinguishers.

Mr. Prokop said the Beaufort 2030 Lab 1 was a success, and the city was well-represented by the volunteers that the city invited to participate. Lab 2 on February 13 will be "where the real work begins," he said.

March 11 and 12 are the dates for the annual retreat at the St. Helena library, Mr. Prokop said. June 11 will be the first public hearing on the budget. He reviewed other upcoming projects.

22% of the current police department is female, Mr. Prokop said, and 6 City of Beaufort officers have recently graduated from the police academy.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling discussed the activities of Young Leaders of Beaufort and said "Reconstruction Beaufort is growing."

United Community Task Force has an event coming up, Mayor Keyserling said, and he is working to involve the Old Commons and Northwest Quadrant neighborhoods in it.

The Trump administration called back "the seismic testing team" to "work on the permits" during the federal government shutdown, Mayor Keyserling said, but a federal judge issued an injunction against this.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Murray said the Beaufort County Economic Development Corp (EDC) had a strategic planning retreat last week. Year-to-date, the EDC has booked \$20.3 million in capital investment countywide, he said.

Councilman Cromer said the current Beaufort History Museum exhibit about films shot in Beaufort is a success, and it will continue through February. The museum's annual meeting is coming up, he said, and he announced the next lecture in the Beaufort History Series.

Councilman McFee said **Natalie Daise's** art show is opening this week at the USCB

Center for the Arts gallery, and the opening reception is this Thursday.

There were general comments about the Beaufort 2030 meeting. Councilman Murray asked if there's a process to keep the participants in the process engaged. Mayor Keyserling said they might be able to discuss that in Lab 2 when they discuss next steps.

There being no further business to come before council, Councilman Cromer made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to adjourn the regular council meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.