



City Council Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes – City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

March 10, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:35PM

Mayor, Billy Keyserling - All members of Council in attendance (Nan Sutton, Mike McFee, Mayor Keyserling, Stephen Murray, and Phil Cromer).

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. PROCLAMATIONS/COMMENDATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Proclamation proclaiming March 2020 as American Red Cross Month

Motion to approve made by Murray and seconded by Cromer.

Proclamation read by Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee, and presented by Mayor Keyserling to Lowcountry Chapter of American Red Cross.

Proclamation accepted by Lowcountry Chapter of America Red Cross - Gary Baldwin, Candice Camp and Wyman Haigler.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Reece Bertholf, Fire Chief, thanked the American Red Cross.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance amending Part 7 and adding a new Chapter 17, Development Impact Fees for Fire Service

Reece Bertholf, Fire Chief, gave a brief overview of the proposed Fire Impact Fee. Chief Bertholf stated that under state law the Planning Commission has given him authority to prepare the Capital Improvement program that requires approval and adopting plans.

On November 3, 2018 the City Council directed the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) to prepare a Capital Improvement Plan for Fire facilities. An improvement plan has been developed as it is required by the South Carolina Development Impact Fee Act.

On October 21, 2019, a joint planning of the MPC recommended that City Council adopt the Fire Facility Capital Improvement Plan dated August 15, 2019. A public hearing before Beaufort City Council is now being held regarding Fire Facilities Capital Improvement Plan (March 10, 2020), with notice to the public in the Beaufort Gazette on January 27, 2020, in consideration of ordinance amending Part 7 and adding a new Chapter 17 for fire services.

Mayor Keyserling expressed that this impact fee is a onetime fee for new development not existing development.

Mayor Keyserling asked for public comment and there was none.

VI. MINUTES

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Co-Sponsorship request for use of Waterfront Park from Hopeful Horizon for Take Back the Night event on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Motion to approve made by McFee and seconded by Cromer.

Linda Roper, Director of Downtown Operations, and Rose Ewing with Hopeful Horizon gave an overview of the event.

Event was approved unanimously.

- B. Request from Beaufort Area Hospitality Association to change the date for use of the Waterfront Park for the Oyster Festival event to be held on January 15-16, 2021.

Motion to approve made by McFee and seconded by Cromer.

Linda Roper, Director of Downtown Operations, gave an overview of the event.

Event was approved unanimously.

- C. Authorize City Manager to enter into Contract for Parking Management Services.

Motion to approve made by McFee and seconded by Sutton.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, gave a brief overview of the RFP process.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

- D. Resolution Adopting the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Priority Needs.

Motion was made by McFee and seconded by Cromer.

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director gave a brief overview of the Resolution and stated that this is formalizing what was discussed at the February 25, 2020 Worksession.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

- E. Approval for the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Carnegie Library Historical Marker.

Motion was made by Murray and seconded by Cromer.

William Prokop, City Manager and Councilman McFee gave an overview of what is being proposed.

Councilman McFee expressed the project involves putting a historical marker on the Carnegie building.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

- F. Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all necessary and appropriate documents for the purchase by the City of the property at 2153 Boundary Street - 1st Reading

Motion made by Cromer and seconded by Murray.

Mr. Prokop, City Manager, expressed this property has been vacant for an estimated ten years on Boundary Street, which at one point was a drive-thru coffee shop. The purpose of this purchase is in the interest of the City for a future parallel road. This area could be the entrance or exit for that future road that has been in discussion.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

- G. Ordinance amending Part 7 and adding a new Chapter 17, Development Impact Fees for Fire Service - 1st Reading

Motion to approve made by McFee and seconded by Cromer.

Mayor Keyserling expressed that this was already heard at the Public Hearing and he did not feel a presentation would be necessary. Chief Bertholf gave a quick brief to City Council giving them some feedback from the last discussion they had. Councilman Murray questioned the affordable housing part in reference to protecting the affordable part until it goes to the private sector from six years to ten years. Chief Bertholf expressed that at the next Worksession coming up this can be further discussed about the recommended changes. Councilman Cromer agreed with Councilman Murray about the ten years being the best practice. Mayor Keyserling asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

VIII. REPORTS

City Manager

1. Greenlawn project is 99.7 percent complete. He recommends Council to drive by and see how nice it turned out with the landscaping.
2. Notice has been sent out to the public that the Mossy Oak Drainage Meeting will be held March 31, 2020, from 10am to 12pm in the Council Chambers. We have OCRM and Army Corps of Engineers processed. DHEC verbally said it was being mailed tomorrow. This meeting will give everyone an update and hopefully we will have all the permits in hand by then.
3. As you are aware, we had our Council retreat and we are in the process of fine tuning our plans and will have a draft for you to review at our next Worksession on March 24. These strategic plans will be part of the budget plans as we move forward.
4. Mr. Prokop thanked the Fire Fighters for doing a great job at the Marsh Gardens fire.
5. Mr. Prokop also thanked the Police Department for handling the auto vehicle accident on Ribaut Road that took out wires and electricity in neighborhood close by.
6. Mr. Prokop has been talking with the engineering department at Dominion about removing some poles on Polk Street by Chic Fil La. So far in the last twelve months we had five poles knocked down in the area by trucks whom seem to turn short. We believe the streetlight poles are too close to the street. These damages are not caused by accidents, the problem is trucks knocking them down and then leaving.
7. A reminder that the Beaufort History Museum will be having their 5th Annual Civil War Living Re-Enactment at the Arsenal courtyard March 14 at 9am.
8. Our Cyber Security initiative along with our educational and affordable housing task force have been meeting and making progress on several fronts and we continue to provide as much support staff as we can. In the future we will show you reports. In addition, they had a successful trip to Columbia and discussed cyber security with the legislators. We have great communications with those involved.
9. Regarding COVID-19 we are following the recommendation of DHEC, County and State authorities. We have a meeting in place with our Emergency Management Team in case the virus becomes more serious.
10. Lastly, three of us went to the ICMA Conference in Durham, NC and Mr. Prokop would like to say how proud he is on how we communicated and get things done compared to other cities. At the meeting it was found that most cities have not accomplished some of what we have. Mr. Prokop likes that City Council has the attitude that we are in this together and with that we are on a good track.

City Council

Mayor Keyserling

1. The Mayor made comments on the Local Option Sales Tax credit and how Port Royal and Bluffton are on board and that they had not heard from Hilton Head yet and the County was not quite on board as well.
2. Today is the anniversary of Harriet Tubman passing. The Mayor of New York asked to be a sister city due to the history and about this time next year we should have the monument of Harriet Tubman.
3. The Mayor Also thanked Kathleen Williams, Communication Manager, regarding the City newsletters and getting information out to the public.

Councilman Cromer

1. Councilman Cromer mentioned that Mr. Prokop already went over what he would have discussed regarding affordable housing and wanted to remind everyone the meetings for Affordable Housing Task Force are the first Wednesday of each month at 3pm in the Planning Conference Room.

Councilman Murray

1. Councilman Murray reiterated what Mr. Prokop expressed about the Cyber Security meeting in Columbia. The Governor endorsed this program.
2. Beaufort Digital Corridor will be holding a session this Friday at 12:30pm. The topic is Consumer Product success with a Twist. Registration is still open, and seats are available.
3. Councilman Murray expressed he appreciates City Council listening to the Lady's Island Village Plan. A lot of lifting to putting it together and appreciated everyone efforts.

IX. ADJOURN

8:30PM

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession and Regular Meeting minutes are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbeaufort.org (Agenda section). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Ivette Burgess at 843-525-7018 or by email at iburgess@cityofbeaufort.org.