

A regular session of Beaufort City Council was held on May 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Councilwoman Nan Sutton, Councilmen Mike McFee, Stephen Murray, 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.

Councilman Cromer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Keyserling said there was “nothing to report” from the session.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the regular council meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROCLAMATION

Councilman Cromer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the proclamation of Shakenna Brown as the Joseph Shanklin Elementary School student of the month. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman McFee read the proclamation, and Mayor Keyserling presented it to Ms. Brown.

MINUTES

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the minutes of the council work session on April 16, 2019. Councilman Cromer and Councilman Murray abstained from voting because they were not present at the meeting.

On page 5, Councilman McFee asked the stenographer to listen to the audio for clarification of the following statement attributed to him: “Holiday Inn and Springhill Suites ‘haven’t agreed to a roadway’ as part of the Boundary Street Master Plan, [Councilman McFee] said, but it could be done even if it’s not ‘optimal’ for them.” *(I misheard “haven’t agreed to a roadway.” What Councilman McFee said was that the hotels “have an agreed-to roadway.” Also, Councilman McFee was interrupted during the second part of the statement, and because I misheard the first part, I inferred the meaning of what he said incorrectly while taking or editing the minutes. The following is the verbatim statement from the audio record: “Holiday Inn and Springhill have an agreed-to roadway in their plan that we negotiated with the Boundary Street Master Plan, but whether they like it or not, or it’s optimal for them, from the standpoint – “ – steno.)* **The motion to accept the minutes as modified passed 3-0.**

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR SPANISH MOSS TRAIL CONNECTION TO BOUNDARY STREET/HIGHWAY

170 SEP

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to authorize the city manager to enter into the contract. Mr. Prokop said this is a contract with ICE (Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering) for \$25,168.51 to do the engineering on the sidewalk connection between the Spanish Moss Trail and Boundary Street. He explained that the section is “a little past the Jiffy Lube,” and said the intention is to widen the sidewalk and the trail so they’re the same width.

Councilman Murray said \$100,000 was budgeted for the total project cost, so this is 25% just for the engineering. Mr. Prokop said it’s also for “construction management.” Councilman Murray said \$25,000 seems like a lot “for professional fees” to widen a small part of the sidewalk. **The motion passed unanimously.**

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OLIVER’S BUSHHOGGING FOR THE JANE WAY PROJECT

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to authorize the city manager to enter into the contract. Mr. Prokop said this was a first step in addressing stormwater issues. There were three bids, and Oliver’s was in the middle, but the company was thought to be the “most responsible bidder” of the three, and they want to get this project started right away because hurricane season is beginning.

Mr. Prokop said Mr. Prichard had been asked “why trees are being cut down.” The city has “all the permits” for the work, Mr. Prokop said, and most of the trees are being removed because they are growing in ditches and impeding stormwater flow. The city is following its ordinances, he said. When the project is over, the city is considering establishing a fine for tossing debris into the stormwater drains, which is responsible for a number of stormwater problems, Mr. Prokop said.

The tree-cutting he’d referred to is just on the Jane Way project, Mr. Prokop said, not elsewhere in the city. Councilman Murray said he knows of a resident on Jane Way who “consistently” throws “yard waste into the canal,” so he would support a fine for people who do that. Mayor Keyserling said he agrees.

Councilman Murray pointed out a change in the contacts on the contract and said that Sprint is now Century Link. Mr. Prokop said he and **Kathy Todd** “both questioned that,” but these are the names they were given when they called. They are going to eliminate this from the contracts, because it serves no useful purpose, he said. There was no public comment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SUMMER SCHEDULE SEP

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the schedule. Council’s last session before the break will be a work session on July 16;

council will come back August 27 for a work session and regular meeting. There was no public comment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING CERTAIN EXISTING ORDINANCES TO ADDRESS AND/OR CURE CONSTITUTIONAL, ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER CONCERNS

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. ^[L]_[SEP]Mr. Prokop said these were all discussed in a council work session. There was no public comment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Prokop named Memorial Day weekend events in the area and said DragonBoat Beaufort and Water Festival are coming up.

Many infrastructure projects have started, Mr. Prokop said, and he named some of those that are underway or are about to get started. Some Mossy Oaks projects are awaiting permitting, he said.

The department budget reviews are complete, Mr. Prokop said; the public hearing and first reading of the complete budget will be June 18, and the final reading is June 25.

Mr. Prokop said everyone should prepare for hurricane season and stay hydrated and out of the heat during this heat wave.

Mr. Prokop said he had received a letter from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority congratulating the city for receiving a grant of \$500,000 to be used for stormwater work in Mossy Oaks Basin 1. They now have \$1.5 million, he said, and with money from partners, he expects "we'll be in excess of \$2 million."

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling said he doesn't know how businesses fared, but the Gullah Festival was "better organized, better attended and more spirited than I've seen it in quite awhile."

There was a revival of the Declaration Day celebration at Washington Street Park, Mayor Keyserling said. The new bathrooms there "look great." The event was nice, but it was "so hot," he said.

Mayor Keyserling discussed the celebration at the National Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Apple trained middle school students on "the Reconstruction team", Mayor Keyserling said, and they are making a film about Harriet Tubman. He discussed other arts efforts centering on Reconstruction, including teaching teachers around the state about the era.

The conversation continues between the county and Santa Elena about taking back the courthouse to “move the county administration in there,” Mayor Keyserling said.

Mayor Keyserling said Town of Port Royal’s Mayor **Sam Murray** had surgery and is resting at home.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Sutton said June 7 is First Friday, and it will have a Father’s Day theme.

Councilman Murray said Beaufort County Economic Development Corp. is talking with the county about the spec building in Commerce Park, and he asked people to encourage county council to “approve the funding mechanism and structure that we have proposed.”

Councilman Murray said a team of students who participated in the College of Charleston’s ImpactX program will be coming to Beaufort Digital Corridor (BDC) as part of its “Live, Work, Mentor” program; they will be developing “Life Launcher,” an app to understand student loans in terms of debt and return on investment, based on the user’s college and career choices. He thanked Rotary Club of the Lowcountry and USCB, which will be providing housing in the dorms on Boundary Street. Beaufort Digital Corridor (BDC) will be providing office space for the students this summer.

BDC is offering “Game On!”, a weeklong video game coding camp, with two sessions this summer for middle- and high school students, Councilman Murray said.

Councilman Cromer said the Beaufort History Museum is working on 2 phases of improvements this summer.

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 7:55 p.m.