I. **CALL TO ORDER**

7:00 PM

Philip Cromer, Mayor


II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike McFee

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brenda Litchfield, 808 Hamilton Street, inquired who the engineering consultant was as stated in the grant for the King Street Drainage Project in 2022.

Conway Ivy, 501 King Street, spoke on the King Street Drainage Project. Mentioned using an alternative. A Gravity System. He offered up to a $50,000.00 match on the City's cost for a Gravity System Study. This offer expires at 5:00 pm on June 28, 2024. A copy of his letter is attached.

Dave Russell, 411 Craven Street, spoke about the same company doing all the studies, engineering, and design work on the King Street Drainage Project. Feels there should have been another independent entity involved. He also mentioned the increased costs for construction.

Nancy Russell, 411 Craven Street, spoke regarding the ongoing costs that will be associated with the King Street Drainage Project.

Maxine Lutz, 811 North Street, spoke concerning the appointment of the Historic District Review Board seats. Feels a Professional Preservationist should be on the board. A copy of her letter is attached.

IV. **MINUTES**

A. Worksession and Regular Meeting - June 11, 2024.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

Minutes approved as presented.
V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance amending Part 1, Chapter 3, Article A, Section 1-3001 (a) and 1-3003 (b) of the City Code of Ordinances concerning the date and time of council meetings and the rules of order of council meetings - second reading.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

First reading was held on June 11, 2024. No changes were made since first reading.

All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Updated City Council Meeting Schedule for the remainder of calendar year 2024.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS


Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

JJ Sauve, Assistant City Manager, stated that these amendments are a rollover of existing capital improvement budgets. He first spoke about the Battery Shores Drainage Project. We had allocated $30,000.00 for the Drainage Project in Battery Shores for engineering services during the Strategic Planning Session. In speaking with McCormick Taylor, the contracted Stormwater Engineer for the city, $39,402.00 was the price given to do everything under the scope of work associated with the project. Davis and Floyd, and Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering, LLC., were also contacted. Staff recommend adopting the $40,000.00 amount that is now in the Budget Amendment in New Business, Item B.

Mr. Sauve then spoke about the Carnegie Building Roof Improvements. He stated that this project has been out to bid twice with no responsive bids. Staff have reached out to places in surrounding states that were recommended by Meadors that have similar roofs and historic structures. This was to find companies that might be able to do this type of work. They have found that the inside work, and the work to be done on the outside, should be separated out. The original cost estimate was done in 2021/2022.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, stated that the clay tiles are in good shape, but the plaster is not. The dormers continue to deteriorate and need repair. Drainage issues were also mentioned. She stated that very few contractors do work with clay tiles. She then spoke about the scope of work in the Request for Proposal (RFP). Staff is considering whether or not to break up the one request into two or three to obtain more bids.

Ms. Roper stated that the figures being presented today are based on very similar projects in Charleston and Greenville, SC. Realistically, all bids are coming in 40 percent higher.

Mr. Sauve stated that while researching the grant, it was discovered that the ARPA Funds that were originally allocated as a match in the Pigeon Point Drainage Study Project could not be used from this fund. Therefore, they are being reassigned under the Stormwater Fund. You will see this under New Business, Item B.
Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, then went over all of the proposed budget amendments. This is just moving them from one Fiscal Year into the next.

All were in favor, motion carried.


Motion to approve was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, went over the proposed budget amendment figures.

Councilman Scallate made a motion to amend the amount allocated for the Carnegie Building Roofing Improvements from $382,320.00 to $250,000.00 coming from the ARPA Fund. There was no second. Motion failed.

The motion was carried by a vote of 4 - 1. Councilman Scallate voted no.

VII. REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Thanked Nate Farrow and our Public Works personnel for sponsoring the Touch a Truck event on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Pigeon Point Park. Great support from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Beaufort County EMS, who all had their vehicles and personnel on hand as well.

Enjoyed participating in the Project Freedom 326 Juneteenth Unity Parade on June 16, 2024. It was the first, but we hope it will be an annual event. Thanked the Police Department for letting him ride on their golf cart. Next parade, he said he is riding with the Fire Department.

The Police Department Future Guardians Initiative Summer Camp Program finished last week. Very successful event and we will definitely repeat it next year and hopefully expand it as well.

The Police Department held an Open House event on June 22, 2024. Great participation from the community. Thanks to our officers and other PD staff for making that happen.

The Beaufort County Parks and Recreation held a Unity in the Community event at the Charles Lind Brown Community Center. We were proud to partner with them and we thank them. Also, I want to recognize Councilman Mitchell for the active role he played in making sure the event was a success.

The Fire Department’s Sparky Embers Program for young ladies is taking place this week. I hear it’s going well and am proud of our emergency services departments for their youth initiatives this summer.

The Police Department will be hosting a Chill with a Cop event at Ambrose Run on June 26, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. On August 1, 2024, they are planning another Chill with a Cop event at Spanish Trace, with a time to be announced later.

The Fire Department is offering CPR instruction to rising 6th grade through 12th grade students on June 29, 2024. See the Department's social media page for registration information.
Dragonboat Race will be held this Saturday at the Waterfront Park. Expect large crowds and scarce parking in and around the park.

Wished everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July.

**Mayor’s Report**

Spoke at the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the Harris Teeter.

Attended the 100th anniversary of the Duke Endowment Foundation Luncheon.

Will be marching with the Beaufort College Trustees in the Carolina Day Parade in Charleston on June 28, 2024.

Congratulated Shawn Hill and SK Signs and Designs on their 10th anniversary.

Thanked citizens for attending Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings.

**Councilman Mitchell**

Stated that he was the Grand Marshall for the Juneteenth Parade. Thanked Martisha Robinson and Tiana Parker for organizing the event. Thanked Police Chief, Stephanie Price for her leadership as well.

Thanked Eric Brown, Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Director, for organizing the Unity in the Community event that was held at the Charles Lind Brown Center. The Friends of the Charles Lind Brown Center thanked the City Manager, Scott Marshall, for his assistance.

Attended the Touch a Truck event.

**Mayor Pro Tem, McFee**

Attended a Meet and Greet with the Residential Empowerment Coalition.

Reported he was named the Chairman of the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS).

**Councilman Scallate**

Thanked staff, and Davis and Floyd, for all the work that has gone into, and continues to go into, the King Street Drainage Project and the other projects. He is very appreciative of their efforts.

Attended the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SOLOCO) meeting.

Stated that there is an idea that this Council did not appoint a preservationist to the Historic District Review Board. One of the appointments that was made, the individual specifically had on their resume that they were licensed in historic restoration. To him, that is the definition of a preservationist. He feels confident in that appointment.

**Councilman Lipsitz**

Thanked Councilman Mitchell and Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Director, Eric Brown on a well-organized Unity in the Community event.

Wished the Mayor a Happy Birthday.

Commended Police Chief, Stephanie Price, on the Police Open House.
Members of Council attended the Change of Command Ceremony at Parris Island.

Members of Council attended the Unity in the Community event at the Charles Lind Brown Center.

Members of Council attended the Police Department Open House.

Members of Council wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding the purchase or sale of property.

B. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding contracts, leases, and agreements.

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Scallate made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

All were in favor, motion carried.

No actions from Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Lipsitz and seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofbeaufort.org (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)(e), as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the City’s bulletin board and website www.cityofbeaufort.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.
April 10 Historic Review Board

April 26 Public Hearing on all Downtown drainage projects

May 7- As a prelude to the May 8 public meetings, a Petition signed by 282 people requesting a Moratorium on the Davis & Floyd proposal pending a thorough and complete analysis of the need and impact of the proposed system.

aka Why won't a properly functioning gravity system work?

The signers constituted 79% of the Point residents which would be even higher if you removed the 10 rentals and 12 vacant houses from the total.

May 8 Public Meetings: Historic Review Board, followed by Public Update Session followed by City Council Workshop.

May 13 through May 17, Point neighborhood one on one meetings with individual council members.

After the May 8 meeting marathon, the City and Davis & Floyd indicated they would consider modifying the plan.

This resulted in the revisions that were presented to Council in the work session prior to this meeting.

A gravity system without the pumping station in the park was not considered.

Davis & Floyd through these number of months has indicated their commitment to a pumping station in Knott Park. That is fine, they have their reasons and approach.

However, an independent engineering firm should prepare a gravity system alternative.

It is incumbent on Council to have two alternatives to consider.

This is particularly true since the pumping station cost is $6.8 million of the $9.5 million total project cost.

This is aside from the irreversible destruction of the Park.
June 25, 2024

Conway G. Ivy Beaufort City Council Public Comment Presentation re King Street Drainage Project

I am here regarding the King Street Drainage Project

Davis & Floyd presented an updated proposal at the Work Session prior to this meeting.

This was in response to several public sessions that occurred in May.

For the most part the proposal was unresponsive to my and the community concerns.

The issue concerning the King Street Drainage Project is the placement of a pumping station and related structures in the Charlie Knott Park.

This placement destroys the park and the view shed.

Residents’ concerns are not with the need to repair or replace the blocked and clogged sewer pipes.

A properly operating gravity system would not impinge on the Park.

It would retain the open area that has existed throughout Beaufort’s history.

This alternative approach has not been developed or publicly evaluated after repeated requests.

In the April 23rd City Council Meeting. I stated and I quote;

“THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF THE PUMPING STATION, GENERATOR AND OUT FLOW STRUCTURE SHOULD BE STOPPED UNTIL WE CAN SEE IF REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GRAVITY SYSTEM WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS AS IT HAS IN THE DISTANT PAST.

MOSSY OAKS HAD A PERSISTANT FLOODING PROBLEM FOR YEARS. THIS HAS BEEN CORRECTED WITH A GRAVITY SYSTEM.”

In other public meetings with Davis & Floyd and City representatives present I and others have continued to propose consideration of a gravity system.

The meetings were
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering is the perfect firm to do this study. They successfully designed the Mossy Oaks gravity system project.

I believe everyone is happy with the results. I and others have been impressed with their work.

I do not propose the creation of a gravity system alternative lightly. Councils' decision is extremely important for our neighborhood and community.

To underscore my commitment, I offer to match dollar for dollar up to $50,000 the City of Beaufort's cost for the gravity system study.

This offer is subject to:

1. Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering doing the study;
2. I and the City engineering department together determine the scope of work and monitor its progress;
3. A final legal agreement executed with appropriate conditions.
4. This offer is open to be accepted in principle until 5:00 pm Friday, June 28.

Yesterday, I spoke with Mr. Elhan Farzam who is Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering.

With his permission I can disclose his firm will consider taking on this project, that he supports the City having alternatives to evaluate and that his firm has a good relationship with the City which they value.

I undertook this inquiry as I did not want to make this proposal if his firm was unwilling to consider the assignment.

Given the collegial nature of the Civil engineering community, I am confident that the development of a gravity system alternative can be accomplished in a timely professional manner.

Thank You.

Conway G. Ivy
501 King Street
Beaufort, SC
Public Comment

June 25, 2024

Maxine Lutz
811 North St.
Beaufort SC 29902

I am a property-owning citizen in the historic district and am speaking for myself and no other entity.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I would like my comments included in the written minutes, and per requirements of your policies, I will provide my comments in writing to the City Clerk if you agree.

I am here to commend Mayor Phil Cromer for his fearless remarks at the June 11th City Council meeting in support of preservation of our National Historic Landmark District and of the preservationists who have struggled to protect it since the 1940s. I, and many others who have come to this chamber, agree with the Mayor that a professional preservationist should be on the Historic District Review Board. I applaud you Phil, for standing firm in the face of those who are content to let their apparent predispositions and apparent fear of consequences inform their – in the most recent case – secret votes. Any elected official who is willing to let their constituents know their vote is indeed a profile in courage. Thank you, Phil.

I call on you, at the first opportunity, to appoint a professional preservationist to this board as is required by your ordinance. At this time, you have:

- Two people who were appointed, according to the minutes, because they live or own property in the historic district. One is a trained architect, but I wonder why you feel the need to appoint two people who meet the requirement of living or owning property in the historic district and not a professional preservationist?

- One person who is a practicing architect – that’s good. That meets that requirement. But why did you also just appoint a second architect not because that person is a trained architect, but because that person will now meet the requirement of living in the district?

- A contractor who works primarily in the historic district but who is not a professional preservationist. He is a professional builder, and I think he
would tell you that he does not define himself as a professional preservationist but as a builder who is self-taught and specializes in historic structures.

- And finally, a developer who develops in the historic district. I’m not sure what ordinance requirement that meets.

I am not here to throw shade on these volunteers. Most have impressive skill sets. Plus, they are brave to step forward. I’m here to challenge you all to meet the letter of your law and appoint a preservationist to the preservation board.