



City Council Worksession Meeting Minutes – Electronic Meeting

April 13, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00PM

Mayor, Stephen D. Murray III

All members of Council in attendance (Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell and Mayor Murray)

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Initial Public Meeting on the Preservation Manual by Brad Roeder of John Milner Architects, Inc.

David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that the City has contracted with John Milner Architects to update the Preservation Manual which was created in 1979. They also will be updating the Northwest Quadrant Design Guidelines from 1999.

Mary Werner DeNadai, Principal with John Milner Architects, spoke about the purpose of their visit which is to survey the District, annotate any critical hot spots and report their findings, and give their recommendations.

Brad Roeder, Senior Associate and Project Manager with John Milner Architects, stated that they will also be doing a Contributing Structure Survey. They will take all the surveys that were done in the 1997 update and annotate how they have changed over time. They will provide the City with a list of what they feel should be added or deleted. Some factors that they take into consideration are the age, and architectural style of the building.

Councilman Lipsitz, inquired how long this process will take, to which Ms. DeNadai stated about 4 to 6 months.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Film Incentives - Ron Tucker, President/CEO of Beaufort Film Society

Ron Tucker, President and CEO of the Beaufort Film Society and Landon Thorne, spoke about reinvigorating the film industry in the area. They are proposing to create a Beaufort Film Incubation, Review and Sponsorship Team (B-FIRST). They spoke about how this program could work to lure film makers to the area by having a local investment group.

Mr. Tucker stated that there are no cities in South Carolina that offer any type of incentives to film makers on a monetary level. He stated that he was able to find a program in Fremont, Nebraska, that could work very well for our area. Funding is driven by a Local Option Sales Tax. It is their hope to be able to do the same in Beaufort.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that under the State Law, the City cannot put an item on the ballot under Local Option Sales Tax. This must come from Beaufort County.

Councilman Mitchell feels that this issue should be taken up with our local State Representatives to make sure they are aware of the potential benefits.

Mayor Murray stated that he remembers incentives that were in place many years back and they expired. He believes it is possible for this to be revived at the State level. Locally, he wondered if this should be a countywide effort as films are shot all over, and not just in the City.

Mr. Tucker replied that this could be done at the County level, but that he wants to focus his efforts on films being done North of the Broad, but will appreciate any assistance that can be given to make films become an economic driver in Beaufort again.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of Legal Advice regarding litigation.

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

No actions from Executive Session.

V. ADJOURN

7:06 PM

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