

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on August 21, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Planning Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling and council members Donnie Ann Beer, George O'Kelley, Mike Sutton, and Mike McFee, and City Manager Scott Dadson.

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.

Mayor Keyserling called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**MOTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE FWHA FY 2011 TIGER GRANT NO. 6**

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to authorize the execution of the grant. Scott Dadson** said this motion was for the city manager to enter into the federal highway grant. The award was received in December 2011. The three parties are the city, the county, and the Federal Highway Administration. This “squares everything up,” Mr. Dadson said.

**Kathy Todd** said the TIGER grant is ready for execution. Council must authorize Mr. Dadson as the first step, and then the grant agreement moves up the line. Mr. Dadson said because the project also involves penny sales tax and some TIF money, they wanted to cleanly use TIGER for construction in a tiered approach. Mr. Dadson said the city and county are co-managing the project. Ms. Todd said the MOU is being updated now as to who does what, etc. for communication and accountability so everyone “knows what’s been reported to the feds.” The city will know its role and the county will know its role, she concluded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE UTILIZATION OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING CERTAIN APPROVED COMPONENTS OF THE TIGER GRANT**  
**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman McFee to approve the county policy for certain components of the TIGER grant only. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Councilwoman Beer made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Keyserling opened the regular work session.

**DISCUSSION WITH LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS**

**Kim Statler** said the LEA board is “alive and well.” They started in July. The 2 counties came together in 2008. The reorganization in the fall led to Jasper County leaving; they have joined another alliance. LEA was organized to market the two-county area, and the state gave them resources for that. They also did re-branding, a new logo, and a website for both counties. They feel the mission should stay the same, but they will market to Beaufort County municipalities

and will pass on a Jasper-only prospect to the other alliance. All appointees but one are from the private-sector, not elected officials. They have been focused on prospects and “have seen an uptick lately.” She said there is a lot of interest in Northern Beaufort County.

TWEAC is designed to market the military workforce in the area. Working with the military, Ms. Statler said, she has learned that those who exit Parris Island and the Air Station every year are “a pool that’s underutilized.” As LEA began marketing this pool of workers, “it started to stick,” she said. The pilot of TWEAC is supported by \$25,000, and there’s work being done in partnership with the city. It will help the LEA to sell the skills of exiting veterans. The city owns the Beaufort Commerce Park and the Air Station wraps around it, Ms. Statler added.

Mayor Keyserling said the city is a partner but is not running the program. Area schools and the Workforce Development Office have all agreed to participate as a collaboration to talk to people about the opportunities that are there. Mayor Keyserling is working with Ms. Statler to try to match the money with private sector money in order to double it. Mayor Keyserling said he and Mr. Dadson have talked with many organizations over the last year and a half, and they know that they are willing to host it and get it going “in an embryonic state.” Mayor Keyserling said the worst thing about economic development is that he “can’t tell others’ secrets,” but he knows of two people who have responded positively to having access to the ex-military workforce. The two principles in the park are excited as well, Mayor Keyserling said. The Chamber of Commerce wants to be involved and is in support of the Commerce Park on the “ambassador side.” He has spoken to others about working with them as well. Councilwoman Beer said “it’s a good step into the future.”

Ms. Statler said a military or former military person needs to be identified as good matches to do this work for them. No person or organization they’ve “talked to about this has responded less than favorably.” Ms. Statler said that many things are being attempted for transitioning military, and this group is “different because it’s more than a website.” They feel that a business looking at Beaufort will have “a person to give them personal attention to connect the dots.”

Mayor Keyserling said the new initiatives that the feds are doing do not involve sitting down with people and working them through the issues that need to be worked through. Mayor Keyserling gave an example of what needs to be said to give a person value in the private sector in regard to a person who’s exiting the military. There will be “a large group of ex-military out there,” and it’s important not to compete with the military, but they can also offer something to those who don’t have a place in the downsized military. The military transition is happening in each branch, Mayor Keyserling said. The army is touting a website-driven effort “like match.com,” he said. So many young people are coming out “without a clue,” he added: They take the GI Bill for education, go home, spend the stipend and take a few classes at community college and then lose what they had gained while in the military, Mayor Keyserling said.

Mr. Dadson said he had been to a meeting in which he learned that “the Boeing presence and the Upstate presence are strong,” as are the opportunities. The turnover at Boeing is 10%

which is 600 people. “The numbers match, the opportunities are here, and this is a way to bridge to the culture already out in the workforce,” Mr. Dadson said. Mr. Dadson went on to share statistics about students at Battery Creek in engineering and aviation.

Mayor Keyserling said that though it’s slow, he’s seen opportunities happening in regard to the Commerce Park; it was the right thing to do, and he expects “to see traction happening soon.”

**Councilman O’Kelley made a motion to amend the Executive Session to include discussion of a potential contractual matter. Councilwoman Beer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**On motion of Councilwoman Beer, seconded by Councilman McFee, council voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 70(a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws for discussion of appointments to a public body. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**\_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the work session. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before city council, the meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK