

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on May 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Council members Mike McFee, George O’Kelley, Stephen Murray, and Phil Cromer, and City Manager Bill Prokop.

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.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Keyserling called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **PRESENTATIONS: DEPARTMENT BUDGETS FISCAL YEAR 2016**

#### **Police**

**Chief Matt Clancy** reviewed the police department’s mission statement and the current employee breakdown, including civilian personnel. He went on to show the 2014 activity report, including 69,152 calls for service. Per the FBI Part 1 Crime Report, violent crimes were down: from 6 rapes to 4; robberies up by 2; aggravated assault was down; burglaries, larceny, breaking and entering were all up, and the number of motor vehicle thefts went from 20 to 35, but they were unable to account for the significant jump.

Chief Clancy said the police department has pending grants for body armor, body cameras, and a federal Highway Safety Grant pending for two officers who would concentrate on traffic violations.

Proposed capital purchases are for replacement vehicles, two tasers that no longer work, and 35 body cameras. Councilman Murray asked about the price of storage for the data for the cameras. Chief Clancy said yes, storage is expensive and complex, and they also need to pay for training.

Chief Clancy summarized the fiscal year 2015–2016 operational costs, which, he said, “is pretty much last year’s budget.” There’s a rise in the budget for the cost of manuals and other training materials for emergency management; this is new because it’s a new position.

Councilman O’Kelley asked where juveniles are incarcerated now, and Chief Clancy said in Columbia.

Councilman Murray asked if vehicle maintenance was done in-house; Chief Clancy said the county garage on Shanklin Road, which also works on Beaufort County cars (they’re contracted by the county) and gives the police department a better rate for everything but tire repair. Councilman Murray asked if it would be a benefit to use the Public Works mechanic. Mr. Prokop said a lot of the work that that mechanic does is on lawnmowers and preventive maintenance, but they’re “looking at possibly consolidating that.”

Chief Clancy showed the complete budget with comparison and including the employee requests. Councilman Murray asked about the \$34,000 vehicle line, and **Kathy Todd** said that's for vehicle insurance.

Councilman O'Kelley asked whether there was still "piggy-backing with the county when we bought something" to get better rates. Mr. Prokop and Ms. Todd said they get the best rates they can. Councilman O'Kelley also wondered if the victim's advocate function could be combined with the advocate at the county, or if their offices could be combined. Chief Clancy said the position is a requirement, and each office has its own victims' advocate. Chief Clancy said there are differences between what various victims' advocates handle. Councilman Cromer said that the victims' advocate's budget surplus could be used for things like body cameras. Ms. Todd discussed how the funding of that position is done. Councilman O'Kelley said that any time that they "could dovetail with another municipality or the county," as was done in the past, they should, and he wondered if that could be done again.

Chief Clancy said the solicitors' office doesn't prosecute Beaufort's cases in municipal court; the city attorney, **Bill Harvey**, prosecutes them.

At Mr. Prokop's request, Chief Clancy showed the costs over 3 years if they hired a new officer. The initial salary is \$45,000, benefits bring it to \$68,000, and then there is the initial purchase of equipment: pistol, taser, body armor, "leather gear," patrol car, etc.

### **Administration**

Ms. Todd said some other departments in the general fund include the non-departmental department, which centralizes unassigned costs, the city council department, the city manager accounts, finance accounts, human resources accounts, and information technology.

Ms. Todd showed the budget breakdown for the non-departmental department. She pointed out a \$10,000 request that "used to be in the requested budget." Changes from prior years to this one include the creation of the human resources department, which was originally part of the city manager's department. Administrative fees and substance testing have been removed from the non-departmental department and into the human resources budget, so they are no longer presented here. Health insurance for retirees – which the retirees pay back to the city – is a "wash," Ms. Todd said. There followed a brief discussion of the retirees who currently have insurance.

Maintenance facilities in 2016 have a division in the Public Works budget, Ms. Todd said, and that's the budget where those costs are now. "Transfers out" are general fund contributions to the capital projects budget; it's all fully funded, so there will be no more transfers out.

Mayor Keyserling said he doesn't understand why they don't put fire department costs of \$288,000 into the fire department budget. Ms. Todd said property taxes are distributed to the departments. She said she couldn't create an account grouping in the fire department budget "when the budget is rolled in," but she can create new line items when the new fiscal year

begins.

Mayor Keyserling said the Lowcountry Housing Trust “is back in there,” in the budget, but his understanding was that it wouldn't be funded. Ms. Todd said she didn't “recall a definitive on that.” Mayor Keyserling said it merits a discussion by council.

Councilman Murray asked about a contribution to the Lowcountry Housing Trust. Mayor Keyserling said, from talking to **Michelle Mapp** in regard to the Redevelopment Commission and the Housing Authority, he has heard different things as to whether Bluffton is participating. The Town of Port Royal is not. The Lowcountry Housing Trust “can live without any money,” Mayor Keyserling said, so the money can be used to hire a grants or staff person to work on housing, so “it could be cut until the Redevelopment Commission comes up with something.”

Councilman Murray said he didn't realize the contribution was \$65,000 a year, and while it's a great program, he doesn't feel that amount is merited, given what the trust has invested in Beaufort. Mayor Keyserling said the people in the city would benefit from Lowcountry Housing Trust, whether the city gives them a contribution or not. But the important question, he feels, “is what we want to do about housing and funding.” Beaufort will not be penalized because the Lowcountry Housing Trust has changed its model.

Councilman Cromer asked what a redevelopment incentive refund was. Ms. Todd said it's a planning tool in the ordinance for a redevelopment incentive for those in the Historic District who make major repairs, so they get tax abatement.

Councilman O'Kelley asked what is included in “contractual services” for \$10,000. Ms. Todd said they're not on that section yet – he was ahead of her presentation – as she was still on page 3.

Councilman McFee said he didn't think that the Lowcountry Housing Trust was even invoicing anymore.

Ms. Todd showed the historical information and requests for city council. Most of it is retreat costs, including bringing in **Camille Miller**. Councilman O'Kelley asked about \$6,000 for publications, subscriptions, and dues. Ms. Todd said that's for costs of meeting legislators, the MASC, etc. Ms. Todd said these expenses are not the wrong category because it's “an object code definition.” Councilman O'Kelley feels this is “misleading,” and Ms. Todd said it's not travel costs (which are under travel/training per diem), because it goes to pay dues and fees such as admission to conferences, for example. Mayor Keyserling explained, “Certain accounting systems only give you certain boxes.”

Councilman O'Kelley asked about the fluctuation in costs of worker's comp. Ms. Todd said, “It has to do with your rate.” She believes that council's is a flat fee. The numbers for 2012 and 2013 “were guesses on what was budgeted,” she said.

### **City Manager**

Changes, Ms. Todd said, lead to a net increase in salaries and benefits: the salary differential between the old and new city managers, additional personnel (the senior project manager), the city clerk, whose salary and benefits are split: 50% in the city manager's department of salaries and benefits and 50% in the human resources department. Worker's comp costs increased (because the city manager and the senior project manager are in higher risk categories).

Councilman Murray said the fiscal actual in regard to salaries is already \$3,000 over. The senior project manager wasn't in the budget, Ms. Todd said, last year. Ms. Todd said contractual services increase because the PR function is split at \$12,000 each in the city manager, human resources, and Redevelopment Commission fund budgets. The implementation of NovusAGENDA is in the requested budget for next year, so that's an actual cost, she said. The "Office Supplies" category covers beverages for meetings and other supplies for guests and entertainment. Councilman Murray asked about the differences between the actual expense and what was projected. They include food for retreats, for example, Ms. Burgess said. Actual expenses were for the project manager and city manager candidates: meals for those who are brought here, receptions, and "any other things they do for them."

Mayor Keyserling said he understands how things changed, but looking at past years in OpenGov "can be awkward." He asked if it was "just in the broad categories, and we don't go that deep." Ms. Todd said yes.

### **Finance**

Ms. Todd described some changes: she has two employees who "will reach a longevity milestone," so that has an impact on salary and benefits. Information technology increased in 2016 because the annual MUNIS cost has moved to finance to "capture more true costs." Two new initiatives will move business licenses to an online model at \$5,125, and additional automated process in regard to human resources function. That is a cost of \$8,895, and it is included in Information Technology.

Councilman Cromer asked if the MUNIS fee was going up, and Ms. Todd said no, unless new modules are added. In reply to another question, Ms. Todd said leased equipment is the copier and the postage machine. There's only one vehicle in this department, and **Al Johnson** uses it for codes enforcement. The travel / training per diem is cut in half, Councilman McFee said. Ms. Todd said there were some courses that the person in the accounting position took last year.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

As a department, HR's history begins in 2013, Ms. Todd said; before, it was part of the city manager's department. The 50% cost of the clerk is, again, part of human resources. There's an increase in the budget for the citywide safety program to help with future costs of worker's comp claims. Mr. Prokop said he had "met with the worker's comp people," and city staff has to do more to promote the lessening of claims, and to do that, they'll need more in training. There's a health initiative to get the wellness bus in the city, so it's built into the safety budget. This should drive down insurance claims and the worker's comp costs.

### **Information Technology (IT)**

Ms. Todd said IT is “an outsource function of the city.” There’s an active RFP in process, and the interviews will take place this Thursday. Staff anticipates an increase in service because they anticipate more need for technology. That’s not final, though, and they are talking to the county about their IT as well. They expect a greater number, and she is hoping the \$272,000 number is correct because of redistribution.

Councilman O’Kelley said in many of these categories he sees “office supplies,” and he wonders if they couldn't be combined. Ms. Todd said in the IT budget, that is for hardware replacement, not paper, staples, etc. Councilman Murray asked if they anticipate using the full \$68,000 this year with two months left. Ms. Todd said she would have to check. The current year is \$37,000 for software, web, disaster recovery, and other technical licensing, but there might be a server upgrade that’s outside the VC3 contract but is part of the city’s renewal component, for example.

### **State Accommodations Fund**

Some salary and benefits costs were budgeted. It is required that 30% of funds go to the DMO to promote tourism. \$25,000 + 5% must be allocated to the General Fund and can be used for any purpose, but the remaining balance plus interest must be used for tourism-related expenditures, Ms. Todd said.

Based on this, the budget includes \$100,000 for tourism-related expenditures for maintenance of parks and the Spanish Moss Trail, and a portion of law enforcement salaries and benefits based on an estimated percentage of costs related to tourists. Ms. Todd said, “What we budget will cover it.” Councilman Murray asked if it would come from previous fund dollars; Ms. Todd replied, “Not fund balance.”

Councilman Murray asked if they are budgeting more because they anticipate that Accommodations Tax money would go up. Ms. Todd said that’s correct. It’s \$268,998, Councilman Murray said, and was \$82,500 last year, and this year \$64,000 goes to the DMO. Ms. Todd said it’s based on the 30% calculation, and “grant costs may also play a role.” The anticipation of a rise in Accommodations Tax, Ms. Todd said, is based on historical data. \$245,000 will be received this year, and she expects that the city will reach its budgeted amount. Councilman Murray said “We had less money (from Accommodations Tax) this year, but we gave the DMO more.” Ms. Todd said her math might be wrong on the 30% of \$381,000 for the DMO. Mr. Prokop pointed out the typo.

Mayor Keyserling said the county has a reserve fund that they build on and can use to give USCB \$500,000 (for its theater renovations). Nothing the city can give USCB could come close, and might have to be given over a number of years. The share that the city gets by right is spent on park maintenance and the Spanish Moss Trail, for example, and he wondered if there were any money left of the “\$25,000 + 5%.” Ms. Todd said the \$268,000 could be used for *any* tourism-related expenditure. Councilman Murray asked if there were a time limit. Ms. Todd said yes. Mayor Keyserling said when the city reworked its system; he had tried to collaborate

with the county committee, and the chair (from Hilton Head) “wanted nothing to do with us.” He is curious about how the county has accumulated so much money. Ms. Todd said, “I know they get a lot more than we do” in Accommodations Tax money. Mayor Keyserling said that’s in part because of “all that unincorporated.” He said he wanted to see if there was “a path to get there.” He thinks giving USCB \$20,000 a year over 5 years gives them borrowing capacity.

### **Redevelopment Fund**

Ms. Todd said she had maintained the parking revenues at what was currently budgeted, but that will change, based on the parking task force’s recommendations. A business and economic development director is being recommended in this budget with a \$75,000 salary, \$28,117 in benefits, and worker’s comp for \$278 – contractual services and professional services. Mayor Keyserling said, “So that no one misses it,” Main Street Beaufort has been cut from the budget. He had told them to “brace” and suggested that because of the contractual relationship they’d had, council should be the ones to talk to them. Mr. Prokop said, “We are meeting with them on May 26.”

Councilman Murray asked where the old City Hall / Lowcountry Produce budget is. Ms. Todd said their revenue is under “rent.” It’s in the city manager’s budget, but it’s a revenue source. The lease is a right of first refusal, Mr. Prokop said.

### **TIF 2 Fund**

The 2016 budget only includes the payment on the principal and interest costs associated with the TIF 2 debt. The Capital Projects budget includes \$8,223,000 in TIF 2 funds committed to the Boundary Street project. The project budget will be more defined, and additional transfers from committed TIF 2 to Capital Projects will occur as Boundary Street progresses.

Councilman Murray asked about expenditures for the local Hospitality Tax, and Ms. Todd said they are budgeted under the parks department and it’s a segregated fund.

### **UPDATE ON 2015 JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS)**

**Ginnie Kozak**, Planning Director at the Lowcountry Council of Governments, said the

- first JLUS began in Oct 1999, was only for MCAS, and was “a long process.” A plan was completed in August 2004, and the county and municipal councils made resolutions of support.
- AICUZ approval process was shorter but was also not easy. The “transfer of development rights” (TDR) program was encouraged for those owners, especially for those with small properties, who needed compensation. The TDR program has a bank, and it’s supported.
- JLUS 2015 – MCAS Beaufort and MCRD at Parris Island was completed by the end of March, so it was on time and under budget.

Ms. Kozak discussed the JLUS, the new planes (F-35s), and the DOD's advice to put in a buffer zone. **Lolita Huckaby** asked why downtown Beaufort was not in the noise zone. Ms. Kozak said this is based on average flights over a long period of time. What has been heard the last few weeks, Ms. Kozak said, "called a statistical anomalies" and may be caused by wind, etc.

The study looks at options to continue to protect the Air Station mission and the quality of life in the community. The civilian quality of life is much more important than in the original JLUS goals. Ms. Kozak said in the original JLUS and AICUZ, the disclosures (for all 3 governments) were "unevenly applied," for example in the real estate community. Software was put in the county property system to flag any properties within the AICUZ. IT was not applied evenly, she said, but it should be.

Councilman Murray asked how many acres were in the city AICUZ. Ms. Kozak said she didn't recall the numbers but could find out. Councilman Cromer said he recalled "a little less than 8,000." Ms. Kozak said, "In the high noise levels, there was a reduction." Mayor Keyserling said he remembered 8,000. Councilman McFee there was a net reduction, but it's still close to 8,000 acres. The growth areas included more. Ms. Kozak said those are key, too. She noted that links to the final report are in the handout she had given to council.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the Office of Economic Investment is where the money for the purchase of development rights or easements comes from. Ms. Kozak said that's from a department of the Navy. Mayor Keyserling asked if the JLUS has "any credence with them in terms of purchasing land." **Jason Mann** said the office of the Secretary of Defense asks what coordinated planning efforts have happened. They use the JLUS, which supports the county's future land use plan.

Mayor Keyserling asked about the acres that landlock the commerce park. Mr. Mann said he meant the military property purchase. Mayor Keyserling said he could find "no one" to talk to him about this matter. If there's joint planning, there should be joint decision-making about the land surrounding the commerce park, but he's heard nothing but "You should have known about it." However, the City of Beaufort wasn't the owner then, growth zones were not being respected as they are today, and it went unnoticed. Though he's attempting cooperation with the government, he's "getting bounced around," trying to find out answers about property for which the county paid for a conceptual master plan. Ms. Kozak said the JLUS teams didn't see it, either. Mayor Keyserling said it could still be zoned industrial, but there are things that the city needs to know.

Mayor Keyserling hypothetically proposed a scenario of creating a solar farm and not talking to the military about it – something that the city wouldn't do – to make the point that there needs to be cooperation. Councilman Murray discussed the denial of the sand pit because of waterfowl.

Ms. Kozak said they are hoping for better ongoing communication. Councilman Murray said this is about encroachment and the kind of development around the Air Station. Ms. Kozak said it's

also about having people who live there having their concerns listened to and attenuation done when possible. Councilman Murray said there's a giant fear of encroachment, but most installations face more issues than Beaufort does.

Parris Island has no impact on the community apart from the sounds from the rifle range, Ms. Kozak said. The wetlands and water protect that area from development. But the Town of Port Royal is growing, there has been an impact from traffic, and Parris Island is trying to work on those matters. Security is up again, too, Ms. Kozak said, which also creates problems, and traffic backs up, especially on Fridays. There will still be community-wide coordination, but Parris Island doesn't have the impact that the MCAS does.

Ms. Kozak gave the web addresses to find both reports online. The DOD considers Beaufort and the military here to be "poster children for cooperation." Councilman Murray asked if the JLUS prescribes the areas of conservation they would like to see, and Ms. Kozak said, "We don't go into that kind of detail." Selling TDRs is not difficult, but receiving areas have to be in growth areas that are without optimum street growth. Mayor Keyserling said in the northern regional plan, they want the density there in the current boundaries, but "we're not bound by that." The street money, Ms. Kozak said, can be put into the bank until the need is there and to get the bonus, "you have to participate."

The executive session was postponed until the end of the regular session.

There being no further business to come before council, the work session was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on May 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, council members Mike McFee, George O’Kelley, Stephen Murray and Phil Cromer, and City Manager Bill Prokop.

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.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Keyserling called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATION OF MAY AS TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH**

**Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Murray, to approve the proclamation. The motion passed unanimously.** Councilman McFee read and Mayor Keyserling presented the proclamation to a representative of the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

**PROCLAMATION OF MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

**Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee to proclaim May to be Mental Health Month. The motion passed unanimously.** Mayor Keyserling presented the proclamation to **Jenna Morehead**, who invited council and the public to an art show by the organization’s clients, Thursday from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ginger Aimar** congratulated Mr. Prokop on his new position and said she hoped for good communication. She said she wanted to comment on public safety; crime victims need to feel like there’s a police department looking out for them and to know what’s going on with their cases. She knows the budget is limited, but “it could be more efficient.”

Ms. Aimar also commented on the need to get not-for-profits “that take up square footage in Beaufort” to contribute to city services. She said she would like to see start-ups to bring in younger people and to have them live in Beaufort, not on Lady’s Island.

**Charles Aimar**, a resident of the City of Beaufort, said he thinks council has “begun to think out of the box” in regard to revenue for the city. As a member of St. Helena’s Church, he supports an equitable solution to look elsewhere for revenues – for not-for-profits and other untaxed entities that don’t pay for the services they use – and perhaps a lower millage and then raising “some sort of fee.”

## MINUTES

**Councilman O’Kelley made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, to accept the minutes of the work session and regular meeting of March 24, 2015.** On p. 2, in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Councilman Murray said he had said “house at the end of the fuel dock,” not at the end of the marina. On p. 11, in the last paragraph, Councilman Murray recalled that Councilman McFee had said Shrimp Festival instead of Taste of Beaufort, but then had “immediately corrected himself,” though that correction was not in the minutes. **The motion to accept the minutes as amended passed unanimously.**

## RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE HARGRAY COMMUNICATIONS LOWCOUNTRY BROADBAND PLAN

**Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cromer, to approve the resolution.** Mayor Keyserling said council had asked the city attorney to ensure this was in concert with what other local governments were doing. Councilman Murray asked if Mr. Harvey had been OK with this resolution. Mr. Prokop said this was verbatim “what the county had passed.” Councilman Murray said he thinks local government should be careful with what is supported (e.g., language referring to “encouraging residents and businesses” to make use of a particular company’s services).

**Nicole Gardner** said Hargray is “not looking for exclusive marketing.” Mayor Keyserling said that is everyone’s concern. He explained that Hargray is improving its services and wants the city to be behind it. If another company were to do the same thing, the city would be behind it as well. Councilman McFee said he understands Councilman Murray’s concern. Councilman Murray said there’s “too much ambiguity in this” for him. Councilman Cromer said he agrees with Councilman Murray. Mayor Keyserling asked if it should be tabled, or if Councilman Murray would like to make a motion to delete some of the language with which he is uncomfortable.

Councilman McFee read a portion that he felt could be deleted, which began with “and encourage residents and businesses.” He suggested striking the last line of the resolution.

**Finn Duncan**, Century Link, suggested that it would be most equitable if the resolution could be in support of *all* providers making their services and equipment better. **Councilman Murray made a motion to table the resolution in order for the city attorney to amend it; second by Councilman Cromer. The motion passed unanimously.**

## REQUEST OF NOISE ORDINANCE WAIVER FROM PROGRESS BUILDERS CONTRACTING COMPANY FOR WORK AT SEA POINTE APARTMENTS

**Councilman McFee made a motion, seconded by Councilman Murray, to approve the request.** **Libby Anderson** said the apartments are being built on Lady’s Island behind the former Barbara Jean’s. The contractor would like a noise waiver for two days next week to begin work at 5 a.m., weather permitting. The reasons for the request, she said,

1. They would like to beat the heat, which could affect the concrete pouring/setting.
2. There are several buildings for which they want to pour concrete at once.
3. Traffic is an issue, and they would like to pour early to beat the commuter rush.

4. This would allow time for solving any unforeseen problems.

Councilman O’Kelley asked what the closest group of homes was, and Ms. Anderson pointed them out. The people across the street are more likely to hear it than down the street. She pointed out where the trucks were likely to come and go. Councilman Cromer asked if there were plans to notify the residents, and Ms. Anderson said not now, but if that’s a condition of approval by council, she will do that.

Councilman McFee said at 5 a.m., it’s not yet light outside, and he asked if they were planning to use additional light during set up. He said a few homes around where the bank building is might be affected, and a few others as well, so he thinks that should be considered as well as illumination issues. Councilman McFee said any residential properties that it touches (Mayor Keyserling said “about ten parcels”) should be notified.

Mayor Keyserling said the vote was on the motion as amended with the conditions discussed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Prokop said the budget process is ongoing. Departments are requesting 1% less than last year. “City staff has shown great restraint,” he said and complimented staff for its efforts.

Boundary Street is a county-managed construction project, and the RFP will go out next week, come back in late June, and the contract will be awarded in late-August or early September. Then there will be 18–24 months of traffic interruptions for construction, Mr. Prokop added.

The construction of the fire department building on Ribaut Road is in progress.

The West Street Extension walkway should be finished this week.

The parking committee has been one of the most active and thorough the city has ever had, Mr. Prokop said. They will make a full report to council on their recommendations on June 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman O’Kelley said there would be a full parking committee meeting the following Monday at 6:00 p.m.

#### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Keyserling congratulated Councilman Murray on his emceeding at a fundraiser at USCB.

He said the mayors of Bluffton, Beaufort, Town of Port Royal, and Hilton Head Island met. The economic development chair of the committee of the county council has been talking about cultural tourism and a commerce park on the south end of the county. Mayor Keyserling said he took **Robb Wells** along. The next step is to use a catalog and rate the assets through a formula Mr. Wells uses, and Mr. Wells will continue to work with the group. Mayor Keyserling said City

of Beaufort has 3 times the amount of cultural tourism the rest of the county has, but he doesn't think of it as economic development.

There is "a dance going on" related to economic development and Rural and Critical Lands are going on, Mayor Keyserling said. "The proposal we have before RCL was tabled . . . without reason . . . other than having bigger fish to fry."

### **REPORTS BY COUNCIL**

Councilman Murray welcomed **Stephen Fastenau** as the interim *Beaufort Gazette* reporter.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, and Section 70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law, **Councilman O'Kelley made a motion, seconded by Councilman McFee, to enter into Executive Session** for a land / development discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Councilman O'Kelley made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to adjourn the Executive Session.** There being no further business to come before council, it adjourned at 7:39 p.m.