

A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 28, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Councilmen Mike McFee, Phil Cromer, and Stephen Murray, **George O'Kelley** 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.

CALL TO ORDER

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

JUSTICE ASSISTANT GRANT (JAG) 2016

Kathy Todd said this was on the agenda to give notification of receipt of an annual grant for a little over \$10,000 to the city's police department from the U.S. Department of Justice. Both the revenue and expenditure are in the budget.

ANNEXATION GRANTS

Mr. Prokop said staff is reviewing annexation policies, programs and ordinances. **Bill Harvey**, city attorney, and **Danny Crowe**, the city's **outside** bond counsel, advised staff to devise an "incentive reimbursement plan," he said, which in some cases will replace incentives the city currently offers, and "will be more beneficial to both the applicant and the city." They will be very targeted to specific industries or geographic sections, or "will clarify donut holes on Lady's Island where the city feels annexation would be beneficial," Mr. Prokop said. The purpose of the program is to reimburse the property owner as a guarantee of an amount equivalent to a portion of the city's real estate taxes paid by the property owner that is annexed into the city at the city's request "pursuant to this program."

Simply put, the program makes "up the difference of the fire district vs. the city tax, so the person isn't annexing in and paying more taxes," Mr. Prokop said. It will be "gradual," for 7 – 10 years, in "a decreasing amount," he said. The initial designated area for the program will be set by council "on 1) commercial properties – vacant and developed – on Lady's Island with frontage on Sea Island Parkway/US 21 Business that are now contiguous to the city limits or will become contiguous with related annexations; and 2) commercial properties or residential developments on Lady's Island with frontage on Lady's Island Drive/ US 21 Bypass, south of US 21 Business, or with frontage on Island Causeway, that are now contiguous to the city limits or will become contiguous with related annexations."

If it chooses to do so, council can "set additional or substituted designation programs . . . from time to time," Mr. Prokop said, to target a specific industry or a specific piece of property. This way, the county, the school district, etc. will "still get their regular taxes; it doesn't affect them at all," he said, only "the city's portion." Mayor Keyserling said, "In effect, over whatever that period of time is, we would get no ad valorem. We get business licenses." Mr. Prokop said, yes, the city will get business licenses, building and other fees, and "we start to get it back over a period of time."

Ms. Todd said the current ordinance stipulates “1½ times what they would have paid (in) city (property) taxes at the application signing, 1½ times at the completion of the annexation, and then they get three years of refunded city tax for three years after that.” Mayor Keyserling asked if “that includes the fire district.” Mr. Prokop said, “It’s just the city’s portion.” Ms. Todd said, “It’s what they would have paid the city if they already were annexed. We give that to them, just as an incentive for applying, then that same value is given to them again at the completion of the annexation, and then they get . . . their city property tax rebated back to them for the next three tax years.”

Mayor Keyserling clarified that the city absorbs “80% of the millage on Lady’s Island that we pay . . . under the current ordinance,” but that would not be the case under this program. Mr. Prokop and Ms. Todd told him that was correct. “The big purpose” of this program “is to stop the rumors that . . . (the city is) trying to annex all of Lady’s Island,” Mr. Prokop said; the city “only wants to annex the commercial district between Walmart and the Woods Bridge, filling in the donut holes that are not city property now.” It’s an incentive, he said, and “the new way” for annexation to “make sense, and it’s legal and established in other parts of the state.”

The focus is on commercial properties, Mr. Prokop said; “we are definitely not interested in expanding our geographic territory beyond where we are now,” so this program will focus only within the city’s growth boundaries. Mayor Keyserling suggested that “with the Northern Regional Plan,” those boundaries might move in – to Airport Road or to Wal-Mart – though that would probably not happen “within our lifetimes.” Councilman Murray said the city should look at “development potential” there, and do a cost-benefit analysis to see if “it might make sense for us . . . to take the commercial through there,” as half of Distant Island is already receiving city services. A general discussion of the geography of growth boundaries and of this program ensued.

Councilman Murray said the city’s current annexation incentives “are pretty aggressive,” and he asked if applicants were required to apply for them, or if they were given automatically. **Libby Anderson** said those incentives are only given to properties where “the city invites the owner to annex,” not those that ask the city to be annexed. The “vast majority” of annexations have been development-oriented, not incentive-oriented, she said.

Councilman Murray asked if insurance fire ratings had been correlated to properties being in the city or to the geographic location of the fire stations. Mr. Prokop said staff will have a complete report on annexation for council when it returns from its break, but “we are looking at that.” Because of the city’s fire rating, “for Lady’s Island to really be effective for us,” the city would have to change its “MOU (memorandum of understanding) of how we respond, so the people on Lady’s Island could get our rating.” Chief **Reece Bertholf** explained that “the verbiage of the agreement” determines “liability for the activities that occur on” a Lady’s Island parcel. ISO determines “who is ultimately financial responsible for (a) piece of property if something goes wrong, or if someone is negligent.” Agreements “with Burton and with Lady’s Island cover that now,” he said.

The ISO rating is more beneficial to commercial than residential properties, Councilman Cromer said. Chief Bertholf said, whether the residence is within 5 miles of a fire station or not matters on homeowner's insurance, too. Mr. Prokop said Walmart self-insures, so the ISO rating doesn't "mean a thing to them," but it could mean a significant savings for smaller businesses. Chief Bertholf said the weight that individual underwriters put on ISO makes a difference, "but it does matter."

The city has no marketing materials about annexation, just an ordinance, Mr. Prokop said, so that's why they are looking at this program, which has done well elsewhere. City staff will present a plan to council for its consideration when it reconvenes July 26, he said. Councilman Murray said fire and police response times could be a benefit to offer for annexation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Keyserling suggested council discuss "the erosion of the bluff on Ribaut Road." Mr. Prokop said he and Ms. Anderson had met with state officials and others, but it wasn't very encouraging because the state has already told another local representative that there is not money to fix his crumbling pipe problem, so there is not likely to be money for the issue on **Lolita Watson's** property, a general discussion of which ensued. Mayor Keyserling suggested a temporary solution that could keep the bluff on Ms. Watson's property from washing away; the stormwater outfall pipe on her property has disintegrated. Mr. Prokop said the state has been cooperative in the past on small, local projects. He and **Neil Desai** will look at her property next week.

Ms. Watson said that State Representative **Shannon Erickson** was aware of the problem, and Mr. Prokop said she has been copied on everything pertaining to it. Rep. Erickson believes the city should be responsible for fixing it, Ms. Watson said, though the city does not own it, because the city has done other stormwater-related repairs on state property in the past. Mayor Keyserling said he thought DOT had put the outfall in; Ms. Watson said it's unknown who put it in, though "there are rumors." There's "no reported easement on it," Ms. Watson said. It's thought to have been put in in the 1950s, she said, while Mayor Keyserling suggested the stormwater outfall might have been put in by the state in the 1960s, which is when it widened Ribaut Road after Hurricane Gracie.

Councilman O'Kelley asked if there were liability issues for the city about trees and limbs that had fallen down in a recent storm. Mr. Prokop said someone has made a tort claim for a tree that fell on their fence. The claim came in yesterday, and the city has forwarded it to the state because the tree was on a state easement, he said. Councilman O'Kelley said a lot of trees were down in Whitehall. Mr. Prokop said the city has received complaints about some downed trees, but they are on private property. Public Works had "dealt with 12 trees (that were) down, and 11 of them were water oaks," Mr. Prokop said. A cedar tree had fallen on the TCL campus.

Mr. Prokop said the end of the "leniency period" for cleanup is coming to an end, "so there may be pushback" from people who haven't cleaned up yet from the storm.

Mr. Prokop said that city staff had a “good, constructive meeting” with Waste Pro, and there would be performance improvements by the end of July, or “charges would go back to them . . . for poor service.”

There being no further business to come before council, the work session was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

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 Murray, to enter into Executive Session for discussion of a proposed contractual agreement for land and buildings. The motion passed unanimously.**

At 6:20 p.m., **Councilman O’Kelley made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.** No action was taken during the session.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on June 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaufort Municipal Complex, 1901 Boundary Street. In attendance were Mayor Billy Keyserling, Councilmen Mike McFee, George O’Kelley, Phil Cromer, and Stephen Murray, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keyserling called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE ZONING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 255 SEA ISLAND PARKWAY FROM S1-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Mayor Keyserling opened this public hearing. Ms. Anderson said the applicant for the rezoning is Beaufort Retail Investment, LLC. The property is at the corner of Airport Circle and Sea Island Parkway. It is approximately ¼-acre in area. It is contiguous to existing city limits, she said, and all services will be available to it upon annexation. The county’s zoning is S-1 Industrial. Ms. Anderson explained what is permitted in that zoning. Proposed city zoning is Highway Commercial District, which includes all auto-oriented uses. It adjoins property at 4 Airport Circle that was recently annexed and zoned Highway Commercial District. The Airport Junction PUD is approved for a variety of Limited Industrial and Highway Commercial uses. Water and sewer will be brought to the parcel as part of the Island Shops development, she said.

Public notification was made, Ms. Anderson said, and no public comments were received. Staff recommends approval. The Metropolitan Planning Commission also recommended approval earlier this month. **Mayor Keyserling closed this public hearing.**

MINUTES

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting May 10, 2016. Councilman Cromer said on page 1, in the first paragraph, the word “Councilman” should be plural. He said that in the last sentence of the second-to-last paragraph on that page, there are two “is’s.” Councilman Cromer said in the last paragraph on page 5, the abbreviation “CRS” should be spelled out as “community rating system.” Councilman Murray and Councilman McFee were absent from the May 10 meeting and abstained from the vote. **The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed 3-0.**

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman Cromer, to approve the minutes of the work session May 17, 2016. Councilman Cromer said on page 2, in the second paragraph, the word “of” should be deleted after “due to.” On page 4, Councilman Cromer felt that the meaning of “TDAC” should be spelled out; it stands for the “Tourism Development Advisory Committee.” **The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.**

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting May 24, 2016. Councilman Cromer said on page 6, in the second full paragraph, the word “expend” should be “expenditures.” In the first sentence on page 9, Councilman Cromer said the date is wrong. **The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.**

FY 2017 BUDGET

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the budget on second reading. Mr. Prokop said council has a copy of the amended proposed operating budget for FY 2017. Staff reduced its expenses by \$334,000 and has reallocated those funds to the General Fund. They have eliminated the fee proposal and made the following cuts:

- New hires who were not replacements for former employees: This reduced salaries and benefits by \$165,542.
- Facilities maintenance and repair costs that could be funded by future Accommodations Tax dollars: This reduced the budget by \$105,000.
- Planned expenses for park furniture, Christmas decorations, and miscellaneous park maintenance: This reduced the budget by \$10,000.

Staff also eliminated estimates for work that had been anticipated to be required on non-city-owned roads, Mr. Prokop said. Councilman Cromer had suggested that the city use a form – and one has been developed – to notify the state of “where the issue is, if it’s on their property.” A copy of that form will also come before city council, so if the state will not pay for repair to one of its assets, and the repair is not in the city’s budget, Mr. Prokop said, staff will ask for a budget amendment for it.

Staff also reduced expenses for equipment (by \$22,000), tree cutting (by \$10,000), sidewalk repairs (by \$10,000), and conferences, consultants, and travel plans (by \$11,458).

The recommended budget is \$19,387,961, Mr. Prokop said. He’s very pleased the department heads made these cuts “to the tune of \$350,000.” Delaying hiring will not “have a traumatic effect on us,” he said, “but it will have an effect.”

Councilman Cromer thanked city staff for their work on the budget and said he hopes development “will help us out in the future.” The other councilmen also thanked the staff. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL PART 6 CHAPTER 4 ARTICLES A AND B (ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE) OF THE CURRENT CODE OF ORDINANCE, AND TO CREATE A NEW PART 6 CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE BEAUFORT COUNTY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE II (ANIMAL CONTROL), AND PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman O’Kelley, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Mr. Prokop thanked **Allison Coppage**, Beaufort County assistant attorney, for

her help with the ordinance, which he said the police department and attorneys had read; it has now been adopted in Hilton Head, Bluffton, and the Town of Port Royal.

Councilman Cromer said in the ordinance's third "Whereas," the word "enact" should be "enacted." **Councilman Cromer made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to thus amend the ordinance. The motion to amend the ordinance passed unanimously.**

Councilman Murray said in the fourth "Whereas," the towns of Hilton Head and Bluffton, and Beaufort County, should be included. After some clarification from Ms. Coppage, **Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, to amend part of the ordinance's fourth "Whereas," to read "Whereas Beaufort City Council, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Bluffton, the Town of Hilton Head, and Beaufort County desire to have a consistent animal control ordinance."** The motion to amend the ordinance passed unanimously.

Councilman McFee made a motion to amend the ordinance by striking the word "Northern" from the phrase "from throughout Northern Beaufort County." The motion to amend the ordinance passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the ordinance on first reading passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE ANNEXING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 255 SEA ISLAND PARKWAY ON LADY'S ISLAND

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the annexation on first reading. Councilman O'Kelley noted that this was the property that the public hearing had been about. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE ZONING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 255 SEA ISLAND PARKWAY ON LADY'S ISLAND, HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman O'Kelley, to approve the zoning on first reading. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE SETTING ELECTION, RELATED DATES, AND FILING FEE FOR MAYOR AND TWO MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 1-8001 THROUGH 1-8006 OF THE CITY OF BEAUFORT CODE OF ORDINANCES

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Mayor Keyserling said he hadn't read the opening date for filing. **Ivette Burgess** said, "It will open the day after you pass the ordinance on second reading, which will be July 27, and the deadline is August 15 by noon." **The motion passed unanimously.**

FY 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENT #3

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the budget amendment on first reading. Ms. Todd said as the fiscal year is drawing to a close, "we've analyzed the budget to actual," and needed to make these amendments:

1. To recognize property sales revenue from 302 Carteret Street – The budget amendment

increases property sales revenues by \$797,564.54. At second reading, those funds will be applied to “Committed Fund Balance” for FY2016, Ms. Todd said.

2. Purchase of the Sea Eagle Seafood Market and a lease-purchase agreement for the building at 500 Carteret Street – The budget amendment increases the “Capital Acquisition” account. At second reading, there will be a release of Committed Fund Balance, Ms. Todd said.
3. Recognition of the refinancing of the 2008 general obligation bonds – The budget amendment increases “our payment to fiscal agents, which is an expenditure,” and increases the revenues from the proceeds of that issuance.
4. Part of the refinancing from those general obligation bonds were additional bond proceeds obtained to purchase renovations for capital project needs and the Capital Improvement Plan, Ms. Todd said. As part of the fire station construction project, \$79,091.15 of the proceeds were to repair the bowling alley parking lot. \$44,500 is the cost of an engineering study related to the seawall study after a storm affected Waterfront Park.
5. In prior years, the Town of Port Royal contracted with the City of Beaufort for recycling, but they did not do so in FY2016, so this is a decrease of \$61,992.00 (the contract amount) in revenue from the budget, Ms. Todd said.
6. State set-off debt collection program – The revenue isn't budgeted, but \$7,713.04 was earned. The budget amendment increases revenues for that amount.
7. To increase revenues for development fees during FY 2016, the budget amendment increases the revenue line by \$6,190.56, Ms. Todd said.
8. A FY 2015 JAG grant was received for \$11,277.00, so the budget amendment increases revenues, as well as expenditures; the net effect on fund balance is zero.
9. Increase in revenues and expenditures related to the FEMA disaster recovery – The city was able to recover a portion of Pigeon Point Landing, Ms. Todd said. This budget amendment recognizes the revenue from the grant as well as maintenance costs for the repairs (\$2,625.00).
10. To recognize receipt of a Community Pride grant – The budget amendment increases revenues for \$4,975.00 and costs associated with the grant, which was used for Southside Park.
11. To recognize receipt of a HOME Investment Program grant – The budget amendment increases revenues and expenditures related to the \$3,600.00 grant, Ms. Todd said.
12. To recognize receipt of an MUSC Fire Grant – The budget amendment increases revenues and expenditures related to the \$500.00 grant.
13. To recognize receipt of a SCMIT grant – The budget amendment increases revenues and expenditures related to the \$2,000.00 grant.

The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FY 2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the resolution.

Ms. Todd said that each year of the last three, council has approved the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which requires a resolution.

Councilman Cromer said the “park rental fee” refers to “a day rate,” and he asked if that should be “a deposit” instead of a fee. Ms. Todd said, “That’s the next resolution.”

Ms. Todd said the capital projects budget mostly comes from stormwater out of the General Fund, and \$55,000 is the streets and sidewalk repair budget. The remaining portion of the current year capital projects all relates to the use of bond proceeds, which she enumerated. The total is \$719,863.00 of the bond proceeds, leaving “almost \$175,000.00 of bond proceeds yet to allocate.”

Councilman Murray asked if this “is something we could modify at a later date” if council approves it tonight. Ms. Todd said yes. Councilman Murray clarified that it only requires one reading. **The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FEES FOR FY 2017

Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the resolution. Councilman Cromer said it says park rental “fees” are shown as \$50 a day for Pigeon Point Park and \$100 a day for Southside Park. He asked if “fee” should be changed to “deposit” for clarification. Ms. Burgess said the people renting the park get their money back if they leave the park clean. **Councilman Murray withdrew his motion to approve the resolution and Councilman McFee his second. Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the resolution with an amendment from “Park Rental Fee” to “Park Refundable Deposit.”**

Councilman Murray said a few other fees had changed or had been increased. The per hour “special duty fee” for police, fire, and Public Works had gone up, Ms. Todd said. The Marina parking lot all-day rate “for the special spots” is now \$6 per day, not \$1.60. Ms. Burgess said for this year’s Water Festival, the fees for parking will remain at \$1.60 and will go up next year.

Councilman O’Kelley asked about the commercial refuse collection fees, noting that there are “tiers for the carts”; he asked where this applies. Ms. Todd said it applies to “any commercial business.” Councilman O’Kelley said the city contracts with Waste Pro to pick up commercial refuse, so he asked how the fees work. Ms. Todd said Waste Pro charges the commercial customers these fees, so they’re “included here.” She added that all of the other fees in this resolution (i.e., “special duty” and Marina parking lot fees) “have been in effect in prior years.”

Councilman McFee asked who assesses if the parks are left clean for the renters to receive their deposits back; Ms. Burgess said **Liza Hill** or **Robbie Anderson**, with Public Works.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Prokop thanked Public Works and the public safety departments for their response to the “microburst” on June 17. He also thanked **Edie Rodgers** for her nice letter to the editor about what the city had done.

Mr. Prokop said the city and the whole community should be proud of – and Chief **Matt Clancy** “deserves all the credit” for – a letter from the federal Director of Law Enforcement Engagement at the Center of Policy Equity for the Department of Justice, which said that the City of Beaufort Police Department was chosen for national recognition because it has a “diversity balance that is needed throughout our country.” The Department of Justice is sending a team to Beaufort to see what the police department is “doing right” in this regard. Chief Clancy had said the department hires “the best person for the job,” Mr. Prokop said.

Beaufort Code review is continuing, Mr. Prokop said, and staff had met with developers and an attorney that day. They are getting “a better understanding (of) our code.” “Shoulds” in the code’s text are being changed back to “shalls,” he said.

Repair and replacement of Southside Boulevard’s sidewalks and drainage system are underway, Mr. Prokop said. BJWSA is going to replace the taps, which will make the project better. The stormwater project and the West Street projects are going well, he said.

The Allison Road project is still being reviewed by the state DOT, which continues to have questions about it, Mr. Prokop said. The project’s improvements have been planned for several years.

The Boundary Street project is “going well” and according to plan, Mr. Prokop said, and the new senior project manager, **Sammy Negron**, is “doing well.” 25.83% of the contracted price for the project – \$5 million – has been spent. The duct bank is completed on the right side of the Boundary Street project. By the end of July, there will be a new intersection where McDonalds is, and the new mast arm lights will be installed. “A number of (traffic) tickets” are still being issued on Boundary Street, Mr. Prokop said.

The Redevelopment Commission is “doing a great job” addressing council’s goals, Mr. Prokop said, and they have pitched in with staff to work on economic development. Also, he thanked **Jason Ruhf**, Chamber of Commerce, and Councilman Murray for work that ensured that the Beaufort Commerce Park is now part of the Certified Palmetto Site program, which will help the city to promote and market it.

Mr. Prokop said city staff would be doing a dance, as part of BioBlitz 2016, the following day at 8 a.m. in Waterfront Park to celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

Progress has been made on Broad Street, Mr. Prokop told Mayor Keyserling.

Mayor Keyserling asked about the Huddle House. Mr. Prokop said the county had closed on it, and the property would be used as a staging area for equipment and fill that will be moved from “the other property” by next Wednesday.

The City of Beaufort has unofficially received a grant for \$100,000 for the walking trail at Southside Park, Mr. Prokop said; a \$25,000 city match is required.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling praised Councilman Murray and Mr. Prokop for their work on the Beaufort Digital Corridor. He said “buzz” about it has been “good.”

REPORTS BY COUNCIL

Councilman Cromer said today is Carolina Day: 240 years ago, South Carolina forces turned back British forces at Fort Sullivan. He'd like there to be a proclamation to that effect from the City of Beaufort on future Carolina Days.

Councilman O'Kelley said he would not be running for reelection, as he is “a firm believer in term limits.” Councilman McFee noted that Councilman O'Kelley was the mayor when Councilman McFee was first elected to council.

Councilman McFee said council would reconvene July 26; there would be no council meetings or work sessions until then.

Councilman Murray gave “a lot of credit” to Mr. Prokop for making the Beaufort Digital Corridor happen, and thanked **Linda Roper** for giving tours of the “BaseCamp” offices at 500 Carteret Street, **Deborah Johnson** for cleaning the space up, and Mr. Prokop's wife, **Missy**, for providing the food for the reception there the previous week. They got great media coverage about the Beaufort Digital Corridor from across the state and in Savannah, Councilman Murray said.

The Beaufort Commerce Park has not received full Palmetto Site certification, but has attained “Palmetto Site *designation*,” Councilman Murray clarified. They are listed on Commerce's database of industrial properties throughout the state, and they are hopeful this will lead to positive statewide press, as well.

Councilman McFee said the Redevelopment Commission had voted last week to approve the infill redevelopment project on Duke Street, and there will be a meeting June 30 at 8:00 a.m., to which the public is invited.

There being no further business to come before council, **Councilman O'Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Cromer seconded. The motion passed unanimously**, and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.