A work session of the Beaufort City Council was held on January 12, 2016 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, 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 5:06 p.m.

POTENTIAL REFUND OFFERING ON GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT

Mr. Prokop said the city has an opportunity to refinance its debt at a cash flow savings of between $825,000 and $900,000 over the remaining life of the bonds (until 2025, when the bonds would be cleared and paid off), according to the city's bond counsel and its financial advisor. **Kathy Todd** said the 2008 general obligation bonds were part of a referendum that was passed to construct the municipal buildings and the fire station. They are subject to advance refunding for several reasons, which she enumerated.

Ms. Todd presented a summary of the amount of the bonds that would be refunded and the premium on them. She explained the term "advance refunding." She said *not* refunding would be detrimental to the city. Prior to this, the city was unable to refund those bonds, but they have the opportunity now.

Ms. Todd said she and Mr. Prokop had asked the bond counsel what the pros and cons would be of issuing new debt into the refunding. They were told that if they don't proceed with the new debt now, they can't issue new, general obligation debt for two years. Ms. Todd said they asked, if they tap into new money and attach it to the refunding, what would be the effect? She showed examples of the results of borrowing $2 million and $3 million. Bond counsel had said it would be "maximizing on (our) savings," she said, and "would only be paying cost of issuance one time."

The debt mil value is $74,062 currently, Ms. Todd said, so if they borrowed an additional $2 million, it would be a little over 1 mil, to satisfy the debt payments. If they borrowed $3 million, she said, "it would be closer to 2 to 2.5 mils." There is currently a debt margin of almost $8 million; that's the legal debt limit. "We only have $1.3 million against that," Ms. Todd said, "so we have a margin of $6,453,000. So new debt would not impact our legal debt margin." The 2008 debt would not be subject to the debt mil, she said, in reply to Mayor Keyserling's question. That bond was created by referendum.

Mayor Keyserling asked why they would borrow $2 million, except that it would save money to borrow it now for future needs. Ms. Todd said she and Mr. Prokop had discussed that council might want to use it for Greenlawn Drive, "upfitting the police department," or Southside Park, for example; if council thinks it might be needing money, "this would be the cheapest way" to

borrow it.

Councilman O'Kelley said they had set aside money from the other bond to improve the Mossy Oaks fire station – which then became the project to build the new fire station – and to build the municipal buildings. He asked if they have to say the purpose for which they will use the money if they issue new debt with the refunding. Ms. Todd said she didn't think so. They could maybe say it's for "capital projects," but bond counsel didn't advise them on that. Councilman O'Kelley said he would think they would need to say it was *for* something. Ms. Todd said she wouldn't feel comfortable doing it unless there were a list of projects for the money.

Councilman Murray suggested that council should have a work session on capital improvement plans, and if there are holes, they might be able to use this borrowed money to fill those. Ms. Todd said the language can always be "subject to change". Councilman Murray asked the window for this to be complete. Ms. Todd said she believes April 5, 2016 is the date of the pre-closing. They don't want to hold up council's first reading on the ordinance for refunding – if they want to do it – which would be January 26. They have to have that in place to move forward with the bond rating agencies.

Mr. Prokop said they can go right up to the closing and decide not to go forward with it. The bond ratings are $15,000 each, though, whether or not they change their minds. Mayor Keyserling summarized the issue for the public in attendance.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Mayor Keyserling reviewed the issues of the "nighttime music district" and the noise ordinance. Council had asked Chief **Matt Clancy** to review other places that had noise ordinances. Chief Clancy said Charleston had a similar issue, so Deputy Chief **Dale McDorman** had gone there to do research. He and Deputy Chief McDorman feel there are things to be learned from Charleston's experience. At the end of the study, they came out with a findings statement, which he read, and which is reprinted in a packet that was made available to council and the public.

Chief Clancy said it would be beneficial to add part of the Charleston ordinance to the City of Beaufort's ordinance. He read the "findings statement" from the Charleston ordinance. He suggested adding part of the Charleston ordinance to Section E in the current Beaufort ordinance. The city's ordinance says that loud music outdoors that "is substantially audible at a distance of 50' or more" would be "prima facie evidence of a violation of subsection A." It could be replaced, Chief Clancy suggested, with language that says that "late-night entertainment establishments where music is played after 11:00 p.m. shall close all doors and windows . . . at 11:00 p.m. Notwithstanding the forgoing, noise generated from an establishment after 11:00" that can be heard from 50' from an entrance to the establishment "is declared to be a nuisance." The establishment's management is responsible for "all measures . . . required to manage the noise" to prevent it from being a nuisance.

The current ordinance requires the use of a decimeter to measure decibels at the property line, "which can . . . be confusing," Chief Clancy said, and "a question then comes up . . . about times and so forth." This change would be "easier to understand: At 11:00, the music goes inside, and after that, it's pretty simple," he said.

Mayor Keyserling asked if anyone on council could summarize the recommendation. Councilman O'Kelley asked if, in the Charleston ordinance, having all doors and windows closed means that no one can be outside on a patio, or if they could be outside if the sound doesn't travel more than 50'. Chief Clancy said in Charleston, people can sit and eat outside, but the music has to be behind closed doors.

Mayor Keyserling asked if the Charleston ordinance differentiates between amplified and acoustic music. Chief Clancy said no, because "that brings up more issues," so the ordinance just says "closed doors after 11 p.m." Chief Clancy said this is proposed in Beaufort to just be for the nighttime music district, not for the whole city, which has a stricter noise policy.

Mayor Keyserling wondered whether, with event spaces on Port Republic Street, the nighttime music district should be extended. Chief Clancy said, outside of the district, "if it's outdoors, they have to get a permit, or if they're serving alcohol, they have to get a permit. But otherwise, they would be under the normal regulations for noise ordinance." Councilman O'Kelley said if someone rented the Arsenal and wanted music outside, it would have to stop at 11 p.m. under this proposed ordinance. Mayor Keyserling said this ordinance is for the nighttime music district, so it wouldn't affect the Arsenal, which is on Craven Street and outside of the district; they would have to stop at 10 p.m. The Beaufort Inn and Tabby Place on Port Republic Street might continue to get permits for music, he said, or council might want to extend the nighttime music district to include them, going forward.

Councilman Murray asked if there had been a high number of complaints about noise violations citywide or just in the nighttime music district. Chief Clancy said there are more noise complaints throughout the city than in just one area, but from the police's perspective, "the issue is of competing uses."

Councilman Murray asked Chief Clancy for statistics about noise complaints in the nighttime music district over the last year, and where the calls came from. In 2015, Chief Clancy said, there were 15 noise complaints in the nighttime music district, "and the majority (10) were generated by officers on patrol down there" who "heard noise and took some action on it."

Councilman Murray asked about noise complaints downtown in 2014. Chief Clancy said the police have figures for 2012 – 2014, but he couldn't get detailed numbers from the old system of recording. In that period, there were 165 disturbance calls downtown, the majority of which were for noise. Councilman Murray noted that those disturbance complaints could be for a street preacher, "Bennett," etc.

Of the 15 complaints in 2015, Councilman Murray asked if the five citizen-generated calls were from the same citizen. Chief Clancy said they were not. He didn't have details of each but knew that one was from 700 Bay Street, complaining about loud music in the apartment next door. Of the 7 noise complaints in the past three months, Chief Clancy said, four were from police on patrol, and three were citizen-generated; two of those were made by the same citizen, and one was the 700 Bay Street call about a neighbor's music.

Councilman Murray asked Chief Clancy about the cut-off times for music in the nighttime music district in the current ordinance; it's 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Chief Clancy said the different cut-off times on different days can get confusing, which is one of the reasons they are looking to change the ordinance. He said paragraph C talks about sound being audible after 10 p.m. (until 1 a.m.) Sunday – Thursday from 50' away, and any time the decibels are over 85 at the property line. Currently, businesses with live or outdoor music are in compliance with the ordinance, Councilman Murray said, until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, if their music meets the 50'/85 or under decibel criteria. This proposal would require outdoor music to move indoors at 11:00 p.m., he said, thus "shifting" the time to two hours earlier on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sunday – Thursday, the allowed time would increase an hour, Councilman Murray said. Chief Clancy replied, "It would be the same every day."

Councilman Cromer said that Charleston's criteria is only "audible at 50 feet," not a decibel level. Chief Clancy said that is to simplify; there can be the differences in the readings of decimeters, and this removes ambiguity. Councilman Cromer said he's concerned that if there's no decibel level in the ordinance, it opens the matter of loudness up to interpretation by the police: "What's loud to one officer may not be loud to somebody else," so legally, it may be "too vague" and "could . . . be challenged." Chief Clancy replied, "It's been successful in Charleston."

Councilman Murray asked if **Bill Harvey**, the City of Beaufort attorney, had looked at this proposal. Chief Clancy said no. Councilman Murray said a year ago, Mr. Harvey had advised caution about changing the noise ordinance because "it has been 20 years in the making," and had gone to higher courts, "primarily on the street preacher issue," so he'd like Mr. Harvey to weigh in. Mayor Keyserling said council could ask Mr. Harvey to do so.

Chief Clancy said Charleston has "a new unit" of 45 officers who are dedicated only to enforcing the noise ordinance: "That's all they do. They work in that area '24-7,'" and Charleston has a committee of community members and city staff that walks through the entertainment district to see what is and isn't working. They have tried to get buy-in from residents and entertainment establishment owners by having them serve on this committee with the intention of finding "something that is going to work for everybody involved."

Councilman McFee asked about additional security at the businesses in Beaufort, as is in the Charleston ordinance. Chief Clancy said they had looked at that, but there's a size difference in the establishments in Charleston and Beaufort, so they didn't feel that was necessary here.

Old Bull Tavern owner **John Marshall** said he had had a restaurant in Charleston with a small outdoor patio with amplified music inside and outside. Since he's been here, several developers in Charleston have asked him to help them with opening projects in neighborhoods that hadn't had restaurants or "any type of entertainment" in them before. Mr. Marshall wondered if Charleston's ordinance changes had arisen from that, and asked Chief Clancy how that would compare with downtown Beaufort, where there are few residential units, and most of the area is for businesses that provide entertainment. Chief Clancy said that he understood that there were more clubs and entertainment establishments opening in Charleston "in an area that was residential," and there were complaints about litter, etc.

Mayor Keyserling asked Chief Clancy if the Charleston ordinance only affected Upper King Street, which, when it "was brought back, (had) lots of residences already there." Mr. Marshall said all of Charleston is growing, so neighborhoods that didn't have restaurants before have them now. He feels Charleston's ordinance – which was meant to "protect residents in smaller neighborhoods" – is not applicable in Beaufort, where the central entertainment district has few residents, and visitors and residents come downtown to be entertained. Mayor Keyserling said, "The impact is far more than downtown." Music from there can be heard elsewhere, like Spanish Point or Mossy Oaks. Mr. Marshall asked if there were complaints about that, and Mayor Keyserling said, "We used to get them. They moved away." Councilman Murray asked if "the impacts are negative enough" that council should take action. He has moved to Craven Street, and living "in a vibrant urban center, there is some expectation of noise that comes with that decision."

Paul Thompson, Panini's owner, asked if there is just one decimeter per police patrol, and Chief Clancy said there is "one per team." Mr. Thompson asked if the officer-generated complaints were based on decibel readings or were subjective. Chief Clancy said, "At least one was a decimeter because there was a citation issued." Mr. Thompson said Panini's was cited, and they weren't allowed to compare their decimeter reading to the patrol person's. His decimeter is expensive, he said, and is sent back to the factory and recalibrated every 6 months, but they weren't shown the data on which the citation was based.

John Trask said Councilman Murray is right. There's an expectation of noise living downtown, but it should be a reasonable level. As a realtor, "people . . . all day long . . . ask why people don't live downtown," but when they walk them downtown at night to show them what they will experience, those people decide not to live downtown. Mr. Trask thinks the Charleston ordinance works, including people not being allowed "to loiter and talk outside the door" of bars "because they're fearful that the noise will escape." Without a similar "reasonable and predictable" ordinance that allows "further development of downtown . . . you're not going to hear those complaints," he said, because people won't move downtown, "in my opinion and experience."

Mr. Trask polled the public present about whether they lived "in downtown Beaufort" and how many could "vote . . . for these folks," referring to council. The majority represented were

residents, Mr. Trask said, so he feels they are the ones who “might want to mollify . . . the current situation,” so “we can peacefully coexist.”

Zoe Coeperpall has worked at two downtown Beaufort restaurants over the past five years, and she has heard often from people of many ages and backgrounds that they like Beaufort’s downtown nightlife and cultural diversity, and having “positive experiences on Bay Street . . . definitely contributes to their decision to move” here.

Monica Weiser, Lady’s Island, is an audiologist. She said sound meters are necessary to measure “objectively what’s going on.” While the “ordinance may not be about damage to your hearing,” she sees people “every day in my practice,” who say they have complained about the noise, but also those who “don’t want to come forward and seem like the troublemaker.” Ms. Weiser believes “there are probably more people . . . not making the call” to the police to complain about noise because they don’t want to be ridiculed, as she had seen someone do in a letter to the editor about the noise levels during Night on the Town, which she had measured and said were “really . . . loud.” Ms. Weiser feels “85 decibels is reasonable,” and she’s impressed that some restaurant owners “really are trying to do the right thing” by measuring the sound levels at their establishments. Councilman Murray asked the decibel level at Night on the Town, and Ms. Weiser said it was 94 decibels.

Mr. Thompson gave council a handout. The nighttime music district was created to drive development downtown, he said, and young people, artists, bars and restaurants are the “pioneers of any development downtown” everywhere (e.g., Brooklyn, Greenville, etc.) He compared the revenues for two commercial properties downtown – 926 Bay Street (Panini’s) and 916 Bay Street (Regions Bank). In direct revenue, Panini’s paid the city $42,715 (property tax, business license, and hospitality fee). In indirect/local economic impact, Mr. Thompson/ Panini’s paid $379,482 (salaries and wages for 32+ employees), $32,760 for entertainment, $27,546 for local food vendors, and $49,354 for local service providers. Regions’ direct revenue was $23,374 and an estimated $209,000 was paid in salaries and wages.

From 2013, when there were no registered noise complaints, to 2015, Mr. Thompson said his business revenue is down 8.7%, and his bar revenue is down 28.2%. To generate 4% residential property taxes that are comparable to the revenues that he estimated “extremely conservative(ly)” come from the 6 restaurants/bars in the nighttime music district, “at $159,000 direct revenue, (for) property taxes, business licenses, and hospitality fees, you would have to have 56.9 residences at $300,000 each move in (downtown).”

Residents and entertainment venues can coexist, Mr. Thompson said, but people moving into a mixed-use development have to realize that the nighttime music district has been there for 25 years. People wouldn't move into a home next to a train station and then complain about the noise afterward. Mr. Thompson offered government statistics about “expenditures vs. income,” noting that to have a vital downtown, “we need to look at *all* age demographics” and to attract more 25- to 44-year-olds, he said. “There are a ton of properties” downtown, and if Beaufort could have a satellite university and bring in more students, “it will snowball from there.”

Mr. Thompson feels as if the ordinance revision is pointed at him, as Panini's is the only outside music venue downtown; eliminating the nighttime music district would set a dangerous precedent that will have far-reaching economic impact on the city. 85 decibels at the property line is "clear cut and not confusing," he said. Measuring music that is "audible from 50'" or "audible outside . . . opens up a can of worms and is way too subjective."

Councilman Murray asked Mr. Thompson about how he felt about the reduction of hours when music could be played outdoors on Friday and Saturday nights but then gaining an hour of music on the other nights. Mr. Thompson said, in terms of his business, "it still puts me in the same position . . . Prior to all this coming up," Panini's was successful because people like to go outside and hear music by the water. At one time, long before Panini's was downtown, Hemingway's and Kathleen's had music outside. For entertainment, people now go to Hilton Head, Savannah, and even Port Royal, he said, which is revenue out of the city's and Mr. Thompson's pockets. This ordinance change won't help his business and "will hurt every single of business downtown," he feels.

Councilman Murray asked if Friday and Saturday were the busiest bar nights. Mr. Thompson said they're the only nights Panini's outside bar can be open. When people come for Parris Island graduation, they come to dinner and ask what to do on a Wednesday night; there's nothing, so he feels they won't want to come back to Beaufort. To change something that's been in place for 25 years to appease "a handful of . . . interests" is not the way "to find a common ground," Mr. Thompson said.

Melissa Butler asked Mr. Thompson if the majority of his business was between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. Mr. Thompson said yes, and it was previously between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. She said she's in a local band. She asked if under the proposed ordinance her band could be as loud as they wanted to be until 11 p.m. Councilman McFee said no, because there's still a decibel level to which they must adhere.

Adina Foster, owner of Hemingway's, demonstrated the sound level of one person speaking at 50'. She thinks "this is a storm in a teacup." One evening, they had no amplified music outside – only people having drinks on the bar's patio – but the police came to Hemingway's three times because of complaints about noise. They can only ask people on their patio to be quiet, Ms. Foster said, so "the 50' restriction, I think, is impossible to live with." Councilman McFee asked what time it was when this happened. **Kelly Robinson**, who works nights at Hemingway's said it was "about 1:30" a.m. She said she's gotten "several phone calls from a certain resident who tells me . . . to 'Tell those people (outside) to stop talking,'" even when they're not on the bar's property. Though it may be late at night, Ms. Robinson said, she can't control how loudly someone talks on the sidewalk, "but this person keeps calling me," sometimes as early as 10:15 p.m. He calls Hemingway's "on a regular basis" to complain about noise, sometimes in the early evening and on Sunday afternoon.

Jay Marshall said he works at two businesses downtown, and one of them – Luther's – keeps its music inside. He feels this proposed ordinance would kill business there and at Panini's. Luther's relies on liquor sales, and stopping at 11 p.m. would kill their business. Councilman McFee said they can still sell liquor after that, just not have loud music that could be heard outside. Mr. Marshall said he has seen police shut down music that wasn't even loud when he was a patron at a downtown establishment.

Jamie Drysdale, Drysdale Entertainment, said the noise ordinance has affected her income and the quality of life in Beaufort. This is "such a small demographic" that is complaining about the music; she called it a "killjoy ordinance." She has to be so careful not to go above a certain level when she DJs. They don't want Beaufort to be Charleston, Ms. Drysdale said. This affects patrons, visitors, and food and beverage workers. They shouldn't cater only to the people who want everything to be quiet. She asked for council to support those "who love the vibrancy of this town and the idea of entertaining in (it)."

Dick Stewart said the police chief had been "attacked over whether his decibel meter had the qualifications that met the criteria of some of the members of the audience, and I'm sure I'll be attacked about the same thing." He said he's "been involved in the noise ordinance discussion" for more than 10 years; at that time, he was "accused" at a council meeting of "trying to turn Bay Street into Bourbon Street" because he was "promoting nightlife." Mr. Stewart said the Charleston restaurants didn't die when the ordinance was implemented. He disagrees that entertainment downtown "is the only way to make money." Few noise complaints about the nighttime music district come from downtown residents, he said, "because all of those buildings upstairs are virtually vacant." The 2009 Comprehensive Plan reiterated the city's desire to have "upstairs residential development." Mr. Stewart said he has "been contractually obligated to do some residential development . . . with" the city, which provides tax incentives and states that it wants downtown residential development in its Comprehensive Plan and the Civic Master Plan.

If they "want peace in neighborhoods," Mr. Stewart said, they need to find a way to resolve the city's "policy of residential, mixed-use vibrancy and the need for these folks to earn a living." Mr. Stewart said he'd bought Old Bay Marketplace in 1999, and Masquerades nightclub "was the highest-paying tenant in the building." It opened at 10 p.m. and closed late. Mr. Stewart met with the Masquerades owner about debris that its patrons left in the marketplace, and the need for the bar owner to be a better neighbor to the other businesses there. The bar owner said he couldn't "survive as a business unless I do this," then told Mr. Stewart that they would be bringing in "female and male revues . . . to generate additional late night business." Mr. Stewart said he let Masquerades out of its lease and encouraged them to move, which they did, and with investments he made in it, the marketplace is now successful.

Mr. Stewart continued: "If you (the city) say to me – as you did – 'Please do residential development downtown,' it's really disingenuous to say I was stupid and should have known better." The city's zoning says, "you want those buildings to have residential use," so if the city "wants us to develop in your downtown, you have to be consistent," he said. "If you don't, all

I'd like for you to do is give me my money back, tell me this is going to be Bourbon Street, and I'll get the hell out of there."

As for "extending this activity into the other parts of town" (in regard to Mayor Keyserling's suggestion that council might consider broadening the nighttime music district), "no, we don't want it," Mr. Stewart said. "Those people who stay in hotel rooms . . . expect to sleep." He doesn't believe that with the revised ordinance, businesses will shut down; "all we said was 'Take the noise inside.'" For those businesses with small spaces that "like to use Waterfront Park as part of your premises, that's a problem," he said, "and if those of us who pay taxes are expected to clean up the vomit and the detritus and other debris . . . that's a problem for (the city) because we're trusting you to be the custodians of our funds."

Mr. Stewart believes that the idea that people will leave Beaufort to seek entertainment elsewhere is a "Chicken Little" scenario, noting that "they've got (a noise) ordinance in Savannah." The policing of the ordinance "wouldn't be necessary . . . if good neighbors were good neighbors." Mr. Stewart said his company "spent a significant sum renovating" the Saltus building, which was vacant for 25 years, and that business contributes to the economy with no problems.

According to Mr. Stewart, the owner of Masquerades had said he could only compete on the level of "the lowest common denominator – to attract folks in after everybody else is closed. That's a management problem, not a zoning and government problem." He said he's asking council "to be fair," and reiterated that the city has "encouraged us and other people to spend our money trusting you to do" what the city's zoning, policies, planning, tax incentives, etc. all indicate that it wants. He feels developers "deserve some fair treatment."

The question, Mr. Stewart said, is whether the city "will let Waterfront Park – an amenity owned and paid for by the citizens of Beaufort, the taxpayers of Beaufort County, and the people that come here and spend money. . . be an adjunct to the premises of people who are unprepared to control their patrons and their business." This isn't "unreasonable" he said, giving as an example the leases at a shopping center he owns, which list actions that disturb the renter's neighbors as a violation of the lease if they're not stopped. This could be done in the nighttime music district, too, he said, but there is no single property owner there. The city's choice "to say, 'Your ability to be outside, and make noise, and not manage your business,' is sufficiently important enough to override a $1.8 million Civic Master Plan that you paid for, because you think one or two people were stupid when they followed your policies and invested," Mr. Stewart called "arrogant and offensive and legally challengeable."

Mr. Stewart said that if the Whitehall property is developed, he can "guarantee you" its residents "will fill these chambers complaining about this noise." He is "personally happy to walk away from downtown . . . if you're prepared to turn it into Bourbon Street. Just let us know what you'd like to do."

Councilman Murray asked how long the noise ordinance in the nighttime music district has been in effect. Mr. Stewart said he wasn't "sure in the current ordinance because I'm not a lawyer." The commercial properties along the south side of Bay Street, Councilman Murray said, are "specifically what we're talking about" in terms of the proposed changes to the noise ordinance, as those properties comprise the nighttime music district. Mr. Stewart said, "That's not what I'm talking about," which is "equity between city council and those of us who (*unintelligible*)." Councilman Murray asked the zoning for the Saltus building. Mr. Stewart said, "That entire area is core commercial." Councilman Murray asked the "residential allowance in that zoning district," which he believes is "conditional." Mr. Stewart said it's not, because "we're putting in residential above the building next door (to the Saltus building), pursuant to a contract with you." He said he'd "be happy to give it back to you if you give me my money back, if you don't want it there." Councilman Murray said he "didn't know about that agreement. I'd like to see (it) and see what the requirements were." Mr. Stewart replied, "We'd be happy to answer questions any time, if you're interested in facts instead of just taking a position."

Maggie Rogers, a musician and small business owner, said, "Get rid of the music, the people will go" elsewhere, and visitors won't come to Beaufort. Hemingway's used to have music at night, but now it's not there. She's limited as to where she can play. "I don't mind walking over the vomit," she said, or "over whatever else is necessary to have that music." Everybody can get along, Ms. Rogers feels, but if "you get rid of the music, you're going to get rid of a lot of what makes Beaufort Beaufort."

Cherrie Wiles, Beaufort, said she has worked in the hospitality business at "almost every bar downtown." Beaufort is Beaufort for a reason, she feels, and if the music goes inside at 11 p.m., and the smokers are outside, it will "create an even worse situation." They are asking for the ordinance to stay the same and to be enforced properly. Ms. Wiles feels the problem is not that the current ordinance isn't working, but that on both sides of the issue, "we need to clean house a little bit." Her husband, a musician, was given a ticket a month ago for music from "one little, tiny speaker," based on "a guesstimation" that the music was too loud. There was no meter reading "to back up (the officer's) statement." Ms. Wiles said the proposed ordinance is also asking visitors and local customers not to enjoy the outdoors in "our beautiful city" while listening to music after 11:00 p.m.

Stacy Van Vulpen said, "If our goal is truly to work together . . . to best serve our community, then rude and condescending attitudes need to be put aside, as well as self-interest," and people need to work together.

Mike Sutton, a former councilman, lives downtown and has a business there. There's "seldom this much turn out" for a council work session about an ordinance change, he said. The bigger issue, Mr. Sutton said, is that the city has worked hard for many years "to get redevelopment downtown, including residential uses in the tops of all those buildings." The city and its leadership have tried to rebuild and infill. The businesses are a "hugely important" part of what makes Beaufort unique, but they are also part of a larger community. He knows that a lot of the

issues are “generated by the very business owners . . . here tonight to try to stop you from doing something that might cause them some discomfort.”

The noise ordinance “is totally misunderstood,” Mr. Sutton said. Though it’s only two pages long, he speculated that probably 90% of those assembled don’t know what it says, and could “read it ten times and still not understand it.” He has read it for 8 years and doesn't completely understand it, and has debated with Mr. Harvey about why the ordinance is kept “on the books.” It’s “simply to keep us from getting sued,” Mr. Sutton said. Only 20–30 words apply to the nighttime music district – the rest is citywide – and only a small section of the city is in that district.

Mr. Sutton said Mr. Marshall has outdoor music on the patio at Old Bull Tavern, but it’s not permitted in that part of downtown. Should Mr. Marshall or Mr. Stewart (who owns Tabby Place, which has an outdoor patio), “pack up and go away?” he asked. Because of where Mr. Sutton lives, he hears all the music around him; sometimes that’s fine, but sometimes, like at 2 a.m., the bars should realize that they have a business with residents around them. Mr. Sutton urged everyone to read the ordinance, work with council, and come to a solution. He’s not sure that what Chief Clancy has proposed will work: for example, two of the nighttime music district venues *can’t* move entertainment inside.

Mr. Sutton said he found the “vindictive nature” of some people around this issue last time it came up to be “very disturbing,” and there is “an energy that’s not positive down there right now, and it can get out of control any time.” He said Mr. Stewart was correct in saying that the community’s leadership “set the stage . . . for redevelopment downtown,” and must take it seriously or “rewrite the plan” for it to be “simply about entertainment – which is hugely important – and exclude it from redevelopment.” If they want residential infill, they need to figure out how to do that; the same holds for mixed-use.

Andy Corriveau said he doesn’t “know that (the businesses with entertainment) have a right . . . to go beyond their boundaries.” It’s reasonable for them to bring the music indoors at some point, he feels, and they “don’t have a right to occupy the park,” which is littered in the mornings, and “there’s puke everywhere.” Mr. Corriveau had decided not to live in that part of downtown because he thought they wouldn't be comfortable. Many of those buildings are in disrepair, and for developers to redevelop them, they need to know people will move in, so they will make their money back.

Donna Patrick said she is a DJ, and she believes she was the first person to get a ticket for violating the noise ordinance when it began to be enforced. She called the “negative comments” some had made “a bashing session.” Ms. Patrick doesn’t live in the City of Beaufort, so she doesn’t vote for council, she said, referring to Mr. Trask’s earlier question of the public. Though she wanted to, she couldn't afford to live in town. However, she donates her time, energies, and business services to the city, such as volunteering to DJ for Night on the Town.

Ms. Patrick takes a decibel meter reading every 15 minutes when she DJs and keeps the music at 85 or below – usually at 82; as more people show up, everything gets louder. Without knowing about the noise ordinance, after 7 years of playing music downtown, she got a ticket, and she wasn't given a warning first. The officer who issued the ticket didn't have a decibel meter, and she wasn't shown anything to prove that she should have been ticketed, she said.

Downtown was safe when she moved here, Ms. Patrick said, but the environment is not as safe as it used to be because the same people don't come downtown anymore. When the music stops, everyone leaves, she said, in response to Councilman McFee's earlier contention that a change to the noise ordinance would not affect bar sales.

Ms. Patrick went on to say that she didn't know that Mr. Stewart had been contracted by the city to develop residences downtown. People need to know that, she feels, and that "the noise ordinance is there," because a lot of people didn't – and don't – know about it.

Mayor Keyserling said in work sessions, there are no votes; they are for discussion so council can get more data on an issue. There is an "unwritten rule to stay civil." Mr. Stewart's reference to a contractual obligation to develop residences downtown "was not something that was done for him," Mayor Keyserling said. For more than nine years, "we've been looking at how to rebuild" Beaufort. Downtown was boarded up at one point, and there were no back porches or outdoor venues. Those things didn't happen without compromise. One of the most divisive issues in Beaufort was whether or not to have Waterfront Park, Mayor Keyserling said.

For three years, the public was invited to meetings about the Civic Master Plan, so Mayor Keyserling feels the city's desire for residential development downtown "shouldn't be a surprise." Typically, only three to five people come to council's work sessions. "Many of you have only been here when we've talked about the noise ordinance," he said, "and it would have been good if you had been here . . . and if you'll continue to come" to council meetings to help determine how the city is redeveloped and its vibrancy maintained. Mayor Keyserling said that it didn't help for people to say that council doesn't appreciate music, or doesn't want businesses to survive. He asked people to stay engaged and said at council meetings, "no one who wants to speak will be denied the opportunity."

Jason Bailey, co-owner of Q on Bay, believes that "a lot of passion . . . is overclouding thought." He grew up here and feels there should be more residential development downtown, and he's seen it done elsewhere. Those people who want to live downtown have a responsibility to understand what they are getting into. There's a lot of animosity, Mr. Bailey said, and jumping to conclusions. His venue still has live music, but Mr. Bailey has "adjusted (his) business plan to the current ordinance as I understand it." Bands play from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m., except when they are allowed to go to 1 a.m. He and his partner are "always on (the) premises," and Mr. Bailey said he "cleans up puke" and picks up beer bottles around his establishment.

Mr. Bailey feels thinks everyone in the district can live together. He had been to in Charleston recently, and said the bars and restaurants on Upper King were encroaching on residential

areas, and that was why they created their ordinance. This community is different. He has sold real estate, and on Brickyard Point Landing, F-18s flew overhead. People who want to live in the AICUZ will not have that area changed for them; if they want to live there, they'll accept that noise.

Mr. Bailey feels "we can all police ourselves," and finds "the current ordinance (to be) more than fair." He has seen a definite drop in his revenue because of it, though not as much as Mr. Thompson. He said people need to remain "clear-headed" and not get bogged down in "irrelevant points."

Mr. Bailey said, "It seems . . . like we're trying to change the zoning to meet the new needs," instead of investing in "a building, knowing what the zoning is and making it work." He thinks people will buy the buildings "in that one little stretch, knowing what they're getting into." Mr. Bailey said people in of varied demographics will buy downtown regardless of the music/noise. To change out of fear of what *might* happen is a bad idea, he concluded.

Wallace Scarborough said he is affected by the music from the nighttime music district, even though he doesn't live in it, and "I'm not supposed to hear anything after 10 o'clock." He thinks "we need to look at what we want to happen" in Beaufort. He said some people come to Beaufort for the bars, while some come for Waterfront Park and bring their children. A lot of people come to Charleston, Savannah, and Beaufort "to explore the history of the South," Mr. Scarborough said. They come to see historic houses and churches, not to go hear music.

"I don't like calling the police," Mr. Scarborough said, though he has, but not every Thursday – Saturday night. He thinks he called five times last year. When music travels outside the music district, he said, "you're in an area that isn't supposed to be affected by the music district." Those who are affected "just don't always call," but "if we want people to call, we can get people to call." He feels, though, that "the police have too much (else) to do." Mr. Scarborough said he likes to listen to the music on his porch during festivals, but after 11 p.m., and then at 2 a.m. when drunks flip cars on Bay Street, etc., those "are things we don't need." Charleston and Savannah are successful "because they have drawn a balance between people living in the area and expanding the residential nature of the area." If the Civic Master Plan is the blueprint of what council wants Beaufort to be, Mr. Scarborough concluded, they need to follow it, but if they want it to be something else, "change directions."

Dylan Feeser said his dad owns a business downtown, and he "pretty much grew up downtown." He feels "you're looking at the wrong demographic coming" to Beaufort. At 29 years old, he sees the 40- to 60+-year-olds coming here, which "brings in money but not jobs." There are no new jobs coming in – apart from the F-35 squadron – once new houses are built, he said. Having residences downtown would be great, but Mr. Feeser thinks he will never have enough money to afford to live there. He goes downtown for food and a drink, and if he hears music, he'll go there. "You want people my age to come to this town," he stated. Charleston's hospitality industry is successful because there are numerous colleges there, Mr. Feeser said, and a constant influx of young people who then stay there after they graduate. USCB has

basically moved to Bluffton now, so Beaufort “missed that boat.” He thinks the focus on residential development downtown should stop, since there’s no one here to fill those residences.

There being no further business to come before council, the work session was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on January 12, 2016 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, 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 regular meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem McFee led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Mayor Keyserling opened this public hearing. **Barbara Johnson**, Lowcountry Council of Governments, said she would review the 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The South Carolina Department of Commerce administers the CDBG program, Ms. Johnson said. The funding is received through the US Department of HUD, and she described the intended use of the funds by local governments. South Carolina has been allotted $18,542,911 for 2016 in these programs:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

- **Community Infrastructure**: $10,216,505 – water, sewer, drainage and roads
- **Community Enrichment**: $3,000,000 – brownfield projects and obsolete building demolition, downtown streetscape improvements, planning for regional infrastructure, public facilities modifications, libraries, publically owned facilities, transportation, public safety facilities and services, demolitions to address or support crime prevention, fire substations and fire trucks, and health clinic facilities and equipment.
- **Neighborhood Revitalization**: $1,210,119 – Ms. Johnson said there is a $789,881 difference between last year and this year, and the cut was taken in this program, which combines community infrastructure activities and community enrichment activities. You must have a plan approved by Commerce that addresses a specific neighborhood. You can target
    - Infrastructure: water, sewer, drainage, and roads
    - Public facilities: install sidewalks, security lighting and cameras, or construct a police substation
    - Exterior rehab is the only housing that CDBG does.
    - Demolition of vacant and dilapidated properties
    - Public services: crime watch programs, drug and gang education, awareness and prevention programs
- **Special Projects**: $300,000 – historic preservation, innovation, energy conservation, parks, trails, and greenways. This is the second year Commerce has had this program, Ms. Johnson said. In the last round, in our region, Ridgeland got funding to stabilize an

old school building. Another South Carolina city received funding through this program for electrical transformation upgrades.

- **"Ready to Go" Public Facilities Program**: $600,000 – any community infrastructure or enrichment activities that have permits; the environmental review must be cleared. This is the only program that doesn't go in during a specific funding period; it can be submitted to Commerce at any time, Ms. Johnson said, as long as funds are available.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

- Regional Planning Program: $500,000
- State Technical Assistance (1%): $185,429
- State Administration (2% of allocation + $100,000): $470,858

"All the projects that we apply for must meet" one of three national objectives, Ms. Johnson said. The one that is usually met is "benefit for low- to moderate-income" (LMI) people. The other two objectives are to aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and to meet urgent community needs that pose a serious threat to the health or welfare of the community (hurricanes, tornadoes or floods).

Ms. Johnson explained how to qualify for LMI for Beaufort County: a one-person household cannot qualify if annual income is above $37,750; a two-person household can't have annual income over $43,150, and the amount increases with the number of people in the household.

Ms. Johnson described the fair housing law and the application request deadlines for the various grants. Applications are due a month later. The minimum funding amount for any project is $50,000. The maximum for Community Infrastructure is $750,000, Community Enrichment is $500,000, Special Projects is $150,000, Neighborhood Revitalization, Ready to Go, and Business Development are $500,000, and Job Creation is $10,000 per job.

Matching funds are required for all projects. The requirement is 10% of the grant request, but "anything above 10% makes your project score better, Ms. Johnson said.

David Adams asked how "community infrastructure" is defined; Ms. Johnson said, "Right now, it's water, sewer, drains, and roads."

Libby Anderson said **Angela Childers**, Beaufort Housing Authority, was not able to be present at the public hearing, but had submitted a letter, which Ms. Anderson read into the record. The four issues that Beaufort Housing Authority would like to have considered as part of the needs assessment are

1. Sidewalks and lighting for the public housing apartments at the end of Greenlawn Drive
2. Sewer infrastructure to the public housing community center at 1716 Greenlawn Drive
3. Acquisition rehab of affordable housing
4. Drainage issues along the 1900 block of Duke Street

Ms. Anderson said, based on a review of the Civic Master Plan and other policy documents, city

staff's requests are
1. Greenlawn Drive streetscape, which has no sidewalks, poor pavement, and no street lighting
2. Drainage improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods
3. Housing repairs for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters
4. Programs to promote affordable rental housing
5. Programs and policies to promote home ownership for low- and moderate-income households
6. Incentives to promote affordable infill housing
7. Duke III streetscape – from Bladen Street to Ribaut Road
8. Redevelopment of the old jail block
9. Greene Street streetscape – Carteret to Charles Streets

Jon Verity, chair of the Redevelopment Commission, said he supports what Ms. Anderson had said and added that Pruitt's Grocery had closed, and the store is for sale. He thinks that the city should look at how to continue to serve that community. There's also a possible use of the old Piggly Wiggly at Ribaut Road and Boundary Street to be used for a place for people to sell and buy fresh food.

Ms. Johnson asked how council wants the needs to be prioritized. Mayor Keyserling suggested prioritizing them as they were presented. Ms. Johnson said the lists don't include the grocery store, and Mayor Keyserling explained what it is. He told Mr. Verity "there are a couple people working on that."

Mayor Keyserling asked council if Ms. Anderson's "list is our list." Ms. Johnson said if council could prioritize projects now, that would be good, or by its next meeting. Mayor Keyserling said they could have a list for Ms. Johnson in two weeks.

Councilman Murray said about a year ago, there was a discussion about CDBG programs. At that time, projects were prioritized, he said, and asked Ms. Anderson if it was correct that "most of them were similar projects." Ms. Anderson said, yes, "last year we had the Duke III streetscape at the top of our list. Now that's sort of been overtaken by the Greenlawn streetscape" because of the need for it with the opening of the Ashley Pointe development. Councilman Murray asked if the city was coordinating with the developer "to make sure the project goes as smoothly as possible" in terms of timing. Mayor Keyserling said the city already has an agreement with the developer that "gives us the money for the (*unintelligible*)." Councilman Murray said he recalled a conversation about the project possibly being delayed. Mayor Keyserling said there was no time commitment made; it was to take place when the city knew about the reserves from the Boundary Street project. **Mayor Keyserling closed this public hearing.**

<u>MINUTES</u>

Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting on December 8, 2015. Because he wasn't present at the meeting, Councilman Cromer couldn't vote on the minutes, but he said on page 3, in the third

paragraph, "two" should be "to." (*The word "two" can be stricken, as "twice" suffices. – steno*.) **The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed 4-0.**

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 302 CARTERET STREET
Councilman Murray made a motion, second by Councilman McFee, to approve the ordinance on second reading. Mr. Prokop said if it's approved tonight, they will close on it tomorrow. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT OF PURCHASE, SALE AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE RIVER PICKERS, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2242 BOUNDARY STREET
Councilman McFee made a motion, second by Councilman Murray, to approve the ordinance on first reading. Mayor Keyserling said this is the Sea Eagle Market property. It's a partnership with Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands and the Open Land Trust. The Open Land Trust is buying the United Way building, the county will buy Huddle House and the fire house, then the city will close on Sea Eagle. **The motion passed 4-1, Councilman Cromer opposed.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
Mr. Prokop said staff has had a major goal to communicate with residents. To be successful, information must be relayed, received, and factual. Lately, there has been a lot of misinformation about what is happening in the city: e.g., about the new parking ordinance, rumors that Wal-Mart was approved to build on Lady's Island without proper procedures being followed, Boundary Street having roundabouts, gang responsibility for crime, the city not wanting new business, and allowing clear-cutting in non-city areas. "We ask our residents to please check the facts," Mr. Prokop said, and to find out "if there's a personal or group agenda behind" what is being said. All development approvals, committee notes, and financial data are available online, he said.

The fire station was officially opened January 8. Mr. Prokop thanked council and thanked Chief **Sammy Negron**, who steps down January 15, for his leadership and all he had done.

Mr. Prokop said construction bids are out on the transient dock, and it should be underway in the next few months. In regard to the day dock, all permit applications have been filed, and it will be a minimum of five months for the approvals. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The dinghy dock costs will be minimal and can be worked into the current budget.

Boundary Street is a two-year project, Mr. Prokop said, which is "a long, slow process," and a lot of behind the scenes work is happening. There are Friday afternoon meetings to answer questions, and the city's website, Twitter, and Facebook are updated daily.

There have been bids and interest in the properties the city is deacquisitioning, Mr. Prokop said. Bidding ends January 29, and bids will be opened February 9 at a work session. "We hope to have successful bidders selected in early February," he said. There will also be another ad run in the newspaper.

Mr. Prokop said in Sunday's *New York Times*, Beaufort was listed as one of "the top 52 places to visit in the world in 2016." On February 9, city staff will host the Association of Lowcountry Licensing Officials' Annual Meeting, and on March 19, they will host the annual meeting of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.

New parking meters have been installed, Mr. Prokop said, repairs have been made, and some black meter sleeves installed. SP+ has done a good job with the changes to the ordinance, he said. Plans for parking at 500 Carteret Street are in place; there will be a discounted monthly parking rate for employees downtown at about $20 a month, and they will have a designated employee-only section. Two kiosks will be installed there, and they hope it will be up and running by the end of the month. More meters will be installed on Carteret and Scott Streets, too, Mr. Prokop said, and this will all come to council at its next meeting as an amendment to the parking ordinance.

The parking committee will be developing a residential parking permit program "to address the parking issues that have come up between West Street and Craven and North Streets," Mr. Prokop said, which sometimes prevent residents from parking near their homes. In regard to the former Bank of America building at 500 Carteret Street, Mr. Prokop said several developers are interested in it for possible future development, and the city is also talking to potential tenants.

Mr. Prokop said that the FEMA request for the costs of the second repairs of the Pigeon Point dock damages was authorized for $3500. Mr. Anderson, a FEMA representative who is a specialist in seawall and Intracoastal Waterway issues, had visited the day before, and **Lamar Taylor**, Ms. Todd, and Captain **Robert Carson** spent half a day with him, "looking for approximately $45,000" for "underwater analysis, engineering, and . . . some mitigation money," Mr. Prokop said. They were submitting information today that Mr. Anderson had asked for. "We don't know what we will get," he said; a claim must first be made with the city's insurance company, then a report made to FEMA.

Mr. Prokop said that at council's next work session, January 19, staff will bring recommendations for changes to the city's business license ordinance: registration of all businesses that conduct any type of business in the city, business license fees for not-for-profit organizations that compete with for-profit businesses, and licensing of all group events. The ordinance changes have been developed in consultation with counsel in Columbia, South Carolina and the City of Beaufort attorney, in the hope of making doing business in the City of Beaufort "equitable," Mr. Prokop said.

Mayor Keyserling asked if there is a list of not-for-profit organizations that compete with for-profit businesses. Mr. Prokop said organizations that meet the requirements of "truly charitable organizations" would not be affected, but those organizations that pay no property taxes and have no business licenses – but compete with private businesses – would be subject to a business license tax. Mayor Keyserling confirmed that this discussion would take place in a work

session, and Mr. Prokop said yes, adding that he wants to make it clear that this will take place at the following week's council meeting, "so no one thinks we're trying to sneak this in."

Councilman Murray clarified that the Friday meetings from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., at which **David Coleman** will be available to discuss Boundary Street issues, will begin this Friday.

Mr. Prokop said they are looking to set up a Boundary Street gallery on the ground floor of city hall, and the informational meetings can be held there. This will also be more convenient for contractors. Mayor Keyserling asked if they have thought about having a briefing for all the business owners on Boundary Street. Mr. Prokop said they are planning a briefing for employees who will encounter people who have questions about Boundary Street. Mayor Keyserling said he's thinking of inviting in those whose businesses are affected. Mr. Prokop said the Boundary Street project ground-breaking would be a good time for an official meeting, but the date for that has been put off repeatedly. Mayor Keyserling said if they don't have such a meeting, then he (Mayor Keyserling), Mr. Verity, and Mr. Coleman should knock on doors.

Councilman Murray said he agrees with this idea because there is misinformation about the project circulating among the public. Mr. Prokop said a developer had expressed interest in a building on Boundary Street that has been empty for years, but had no idea that the Boundary Street project was happening and would be a benefit to him, if he were to buy the building. Councilman Murray said maybe the solution is as simple as a postcard mailing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Keyserling referred to a discussion about whether political candidates could/should use Waterfront Park to meet with voters in the course of their campaigning. Councilman O'Kelley said "it's been done" by candidates in the past. Mr. Prokop said candidates can't sell paraphernalia there, however.

REPORTS BY COUNCIL

Councilman O'Kelley thanked staff for the signs being put back up that prohibit bikes on the bridge. He also noted the passing of two important Beaufortonians, **Jim Neighbors** and **Eldrid Moody**.

Councilman O'Kelley said that local weightlifting champion **CJ Cummings** had appeared on the CBS evening and morning news programs, which highlighted Mr. Cummings' accomplishments, Beaufort High, and Beaufort.

Councilman McFee said he had attended the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Group, and they passed the Transportation Improvement Program, which, he said, "we had been working on for about three years."

Councilman Murray said he had attended the Beaufort County Council Governmental Affairs Committee meeting the day before. "The hot topic . . . was economic development," with a

very good presentation from **Bernie Maybank**, who "gave a great overview of fee in lieu of tax incentives" and the advantages of MCIPs (multi-county industrial parks) for those in local government who are creating development projects. Mr. Maybank is a great resource, Councilman Murray said, and has 3 listservs that Councilman Murray offered to send information about to the councilmen so they could subscribe to them.

Councilman Murray said there was also discussion at this meeting about joining an alliance, specifically the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance; the motion to do so failed. All of the county's municipalities had given letters to county council asking for a delay in joining an alliance; Beaufort's letter asked for what it wants in terms of partnership with the county, Councilman Murray said. Councilman Murray is encouraged and feels the municipalities will join together to develop some kind of comprehensive economic development plan.

Councilman Murray thanked Mr. Feeser for his comments about the noise ordinance tonight, which he said was a perfect testament to the lack of economic opportunity in Beaufort. That is why Councilman Murray serves on council, he said, to try to build that opportunity.

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 8:07 p.m.