



NEWS RELEASE

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Photo: Hands-on help at City Hall to set up online payment account

Beaufort to hold more workshops for online business license renewals, tax payments

Two additional training sessions are scheduled for Beaufort's new online payment system for business license renewals and hospitality/accommodations tax payments. The sessions replace two workshops that were cancelled last week due to Hurricane Matthew.

The goal of the online service is to improve customer service. The process is simple, and to ease area businesses into the system, City Finance Director Kathy Todd will be offering workshops this week and the first week of November at City Hall.

The sessions will familiarize business owners with the process and help them create their log-in access as well as receive personalized attention in getting set up. The city is partnering with local chambers of commerce to promote the workshops. Participants should bring their own laptops or tablet computers.

Although the sessions are scheduled for two hours, participants may leave once their online account is established and they are comfortable with the online system.

Putting business license renewals online as well as the monthly hospitality and accommodations filings will make it more convenient for businesses to process their renewals and submit their monthly filings, Todd said.

As the online option rolls out this fall, business owners can still submit their license renewals on paper.

Remaining workshops are scheduled for City Hall's first floor at 1911 Boundary Street, and participants should bring their own laptop or tablet computer:

- Friday, October 21, from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2, 3-5 p.m.

The sessions will include step by step instructions and practice, and participants will receive handouts. Participants are asked to arrive on time.

While business licenses must be renewed annually, local hospitality and local accommodations taxes must be paid to the city each month. Putting that process online should make it easier for area restaurants, hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts to submit the required forms and payments, Todd said.

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