

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Council adopted its Strategic Plan for the 2004-2006 period including as a top three goals/objectives the following: Goal 2 – Financially sound county government, Objective – Residents can afford to stay/live in Beaufort County, and Objective – Reduced tax burden on individual property owner; and

WHEREAS, business license fees have been reviewed at the request of Council as a potential revenue source to recapture the cost of government services so as to reduce the tax burden on the property tax-paying citizens and businesses within Beaufort County; and

WHEREAS, business license projections indicate that 16% of business license fees will be paid by businesses located outside Beaufort County and/or outside South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, businesses from outside Beaufort County use county services including roads, law enforcement, planning, zoning, and other services, but pay no property taxes to support the provision of such services; and

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed about the level of enforcement of the current program by Council members, county staff, and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, staff has specifically requested policy guidance to support enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, increased enforcement can be reasonably expected to increase revenue collected from the Business License Fee Program; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to improve Business License Fee Program enforcement and to make progress on achieving the three goals/objectives enumerated above and in Council's Strategic Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Beaufort County Council agrees on March 13, 2006, to authorize the County Administrator to expend sufficient funds to implement effective enforcement procedures for the current Business License Fee Program including examining those practices and procedures used by the Town of Hilton Head Island as policy guidelines for enforcement. Further, Beaufort County Council resolves to revisit the Business License Fee Program as part of the annual budgeting process.

Adopted this 13th day of March, 2006.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By:

  
Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman

Attest:

  
Suzanne M. Rainey, Clerk to Council