ADD-ONS

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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AGENDA
COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Administration Building

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INVOCATION

4. OPENING REMARKS - Mr. Stewart, Chairman, Governmental Committee

5. CURRENT BUSINESS LICENSE FEE STRUCTURE
   - A. Purpose
   - B. History

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. CLOSING COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The County Channel

ADD-ONS

The document(s) herein were provided to Council for information and/or discussion after release of the official agenda and backup items.

Topic:	Business License Enforcement
Date Submitted:	March 11, 2013
Submitted By:	Jim Bequette
Venue:	Council Work Session

Subj: **Re: Business License Enforcement**
Date: 7/24/2013 7:14:18 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: Jwbterp@aol.com
To: psommerville@bcgov.net

Hope you had a great time on the trip with your daughters. Thanks for going.

Don't assume that Business License will look into anything unless Kubic called them. I checked several times over the years on Mississippi Realty and several others and that office never followed up on anything. I have left it alone for a couple of years until I saw Mississippi Realty's new sign.

At a couple of Finance Committee meetings near the end of Generale's tour, I brought up a list of several that had never gotten a license from inception. I recommended that Kubic hire a couple of people like retired Marines; give them a printout of license holders; let them go audit; bring in the names of ones not on the printout; the license office would then send them a bill with a notice of the the $500 penalty. The persons doing the auditing would get a commission (no salary) from the penalty. The persons auditing would not even bother the business people. Some could have a license in a different corporate name than their trading name and they could so inform the license office.

Kubic called these "bounty hunters". There was no real follow through on enforcement that I ever saw after that. In my opinion Kubic only follows the ordinances that suit him.

Jim

In a message dated 7/24/2013 6:03:20 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, psommerville@bcgov.net writes:

> Jim, I just returned from the DR with my girls. we had a great mission trip. thanks for the background. it sounds like you are exactly right about there being a need for more alertness on the part of some of our staff. I assume since you already called business license they will be looking into the Mississippi realtor. Paul
>
> _____
> From: Jwbterp@aol.com [Jwbterp@aol.com]
> Sent: Monday, July 22, 2013 10:07 AM
> To: Kubic, Gary.; Rodman, Stewart; Caporale, Rick; Bensch, Cynthia; Baer, Steven; Stewart, Jerry; Sommerville, Paul; Dawson, Gerald; McBride, William; Vonharten, Laura; Flewelling, Brian; Vaux, Tabor
> Subject: Business License Enforcement
>
> Several years ago I noticed a 4 x 8 for sale sign on Brickyard Point Road for Mississippi Realty with a New York City Phone number. At the time I was active in real estate so I called the SC licensing office and found out they had a state real estate license. Then I called the county license office. Later she called me back and said they had a real estate license so I said what about a county license. She checked and they did not. I rechecked a year later and they still had no license. When another realtor sign went up, I called the NY number on the old sign. It was no longer in service.
>
> Then several local agents went through listings on that property; however, the Mississippi Realty sign still was left standing even though other agent signs were along the road the next several years.
>
> Saturday I went down to the boat landing at the end of Brickyard Point Road. Before I got there, what did I see but a new looking Mississippi Realty for sale sign indicating four acres for sale. A call to a new number got me the realtor. He indicated he already had a contract on the property. I asked about the old sign, and he indicated he had that listing back, but admitted it was an old number.
>
> A call to your license office this morning found they still do not have a county business license.

The thing that I have a hard time believing is that county employees are not trained to check on things that could lead to better enforcement of the business license and sign ordinances. Frequently, I note deliveries from Savannah being made. When I check the companies do not have a county license.

There needs to be some cross training of county employees who travel the roads. Then they need to keep their eyes open.

Jim Bequette