

	Total Available #2:	\$ 240,000							
	Amount Remaining #2:	\$ 32,000							
	THIRD AND FINAL READING APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNCIL 2/22/2021.								
	ADDITIONAL FUNDS APPROVED FOR PENN CENTER BY COUNTY COUNCIL ON 2/22/2021 (\$24,800)								
	NOTE: Please see attached document to note the Board's intentions for the allocation for the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce								

**Motion of Recommendation
Atax 2% funding
December 2020.**

The Beaufort County Accommodations Advisory Committee is created as required by SC State Law and charged with the responsibility to recommend to Beaufort County Council expenditures of SC State 2% accommodations tax funds as defined by SC State Law and pursuant to an established procedure for evaluating applications received by the Committee on behalf of Beaufort County.

The Committee met in October 2020 and reviewed applications including an application from the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce ("BCBCC"). Since making a recommendation to Beaufort County Council that funding be made available to BCBCC, the Committee has learned of legal and organization irregularities that appear to put the BCBCC at risk to qualify for the ATAX funding recommended by the Committee. Just this past week on December 16, 2020, Beaufort County Judge Dukes ruled that the Board of Directors is "improperly constituted" and that the tax-exempt status of the BCBCC may be "immediately jeopardized". The Committees responsibility to recommend ATAX funding from the 2% state pool of funds, requires that the Committee consider legal status, governance, and financial management in making its recommendations. Fortunately, the funds recommended by the Committee do not impact ongoing BCBCC operations but instead are for future marketing expenses only. The Committee recommends County Council reserve Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000) in ATAX funding and that such funding be released to the BCBCC only to reimburse future marketing expenses, as documented by vendor receipts, as provided in SC state law for 2% ATAX funding and provided that BCBCC meets the State and County requirements for such distributions. Should the BCBCC lose its eligibility for receiving funds under the 2% funding guidelines, the \$32,000 should either be reallocated to qualified applicants by the Accommodations Board or maintained in an account for future allocation.

The Committee is aware that the County has access to 3% local ATAX funds which are not reviewed by the Committee.

Approved by vote of Committee on December 21, 2020.

Signed: 
Dick Farmer, Chairman