



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

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Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs Small Business Series Features General Graphene

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews Vig Sherrill, president and CEO of Knoxville-based General Graphene as part of his small business series.

Each week, the Mayor conducts interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any future plans. This month, the series focuses on technology-related businesses and operations. A new vignette runs each Wednesday on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

“Graphene is an allotrope of carbon. That’s a fancy word for saying it’s a different form of carbon,” Sherrill said. “You have graphite. We have diamond rings. We have charcoal. All of that is the same exact element but it is in a different form. Just as ice is a different form of water. It is a different form of carbon, and it is a two-dimensional form of carbon.”

At this point, production volume for graphene is small and somewhat expensive, according to industry experts, but already products with graphene are starting to appear on the market. For example, some companies are using graphene-based materials in tennis rackets, snow skies, helmets, and bicycles.

The material is strong and can be used in anti-corrosion coatings and paints. Additionally, it is flexible and thin and holds promise for use in various devices such as touch panels and smart phones.

“We’re talking one atom thick – the properties are truly amazing,” Sherrill said. “But they still have this amazing strength (and) conductivity. It’s an interesting material. It’s transparent because it’s one atom thick. If I put a whole bunch together it’s absolutely black and it’s still only nanometers thick.”

Mayor Jacobs commended Sherrill on his work and keeping the company inside the county.

“This is revolutionary,” the Mayor said. “And I’ve talked with other companies in this tech series about what they’re doing. It is literally changing how things are done – whether it’s in biotech or advanced materials and you all are on the ground floor of another industrial revolution and it’s extremely exciting.”

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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