

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2012**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Davis, Committee Vice Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

George H. Davis, V Chairman
*Debra B. Summers

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Bobby C. Keisler

*Arrived after the meeting was already in session.

Absent: Johnny W. Jeffcoat, Chairman

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; John Fechtel, Deputy County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Executive Session - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Keisler to go into Executive Session to discuss several contractual matters.

In Favor: Mr. Davis Mr. Kinard
 Mr. Keisler

Absent: Mr. Jeffcoat

*Ms. Summers arrived during Executive Session.

Mr. Davis reconvened the meeting in open session with one motion to be considered.

Resolution R12-8 - Approval of A Resolution to Amend the FILOT Agreement on Hahl, Inc. - Economic Development - Chuck Whipple, Director - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Ms. Summers to recommend to full Council to approve Resolution R12-8.

In Favor: Mr. Davis Mr. Kinard
 Ms. Summers Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Banning

Absent: Mr. Jeffcoat

Industry Update - Economic Development - Chuck Whipple, Director - Mr. Whipple reported the fifth annual Lexington County Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, October 18 at the Golden Hills Golf and Country Club with approximately 120 participants.

Project Yellowstone Discussion - Economic Development - Chuck Whipple, Director- Discussed in Executive Session, no action taken.

Overview of SC Certified Work Ready Communities Program - Economic Development - Chuck Whipple, Director - Mr. Whipple gave an overview of the SC Certified Work Ready Communities Program with a Power Point presentation. He reported that the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCWorks) and ACT, formerly the American College of Testing, are involved with developing an initiative to focus on how to improve communities from a workforce standpoint. Mr. Whipple described the South Carolina Certified Work Ready Community's goal and vision putting South Carolinians back to work. He reported there has to be a champion across the 46 counties for this initiative that will lead the effort locally and chair the steering committee, to engage the necessary partners and identify their role in achieving the outcome of becoming a Certified Work Ready Community. Mr. Whipple said it has been recommended by the Council Chairman that he be considered as the champion.

A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Ms. Summers to appoint Mr. Whipple as the Champion for this new program initiative.

In Favor: Mr. Davis Mr. Banning
 Ms. Summers Mr. Kinard
 Mr. Keisler

Absent: Mr. Jeffcoat

Mr. Whipple reported that South Carolina is one of four states participating in this pilot program with ACT. October 1st was the official roll out date and have until June 30, 2014 to qualify as a certified workforce community. For information only, no action taken.

Mr. Banning pointed out that this is another State unfunded mandate and there is no funding in place for this project. Mr. Mergo added that businesses and the unemployed/under-employed may have to pay to take these work key tests to quality for certification and that the initial funding will go to those who financially qualify for assistance. SC Works and Mr. Whipple will be facilitating the program with ACT as the testing company.

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

George H. Smokey Davis
V Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk