

**DUPLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
Friday, March 1, 2024
7:00am**

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Present: Charlie Farior, Dean Lee, Roger Davis, Glenn Cavanaugh, Al Searles, Ken Smith, Carrie Shields, Scotty Summerlin and Teresa Chambers

Absent: Kevin Smith & Dr. Jay Carraway

Guests: Tim Gruebel, Parrish & Partners, PLLC

- ◆ **CALL TO ORDER**
 - Meeting was called into order by Charlie Farior
- ◆ **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - Approve Previous Minutes
 - The motion to approve the consent agenda with recommended corrections was made by Ken Smith, seconded by Dean Lee and passed unanimously.
- ◆ **AIRPARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES**
 - **Grants Status Updates**
 - **NC Commerce IDF Grant**
 - Joe McKemey assured plans for water/sewer, roads, communications, fiber/communications and natural gas would be signed week of March 4th
 - Parrish & Partners advised continued delay in submitting to DOT due to Tri-County correspondence. Still awaiting information required.
 - Board expressed concern given grant deadlines that are next year. Requested Scotty to make contact with engineer and advise of specific deadlines on grant funds and the pressure from the EDC board that completion of plans be expedited.
 - **NCSE Grant**
 - Clearing & grubbing has ceased momentarily due to rain. Engineer as well as contractor are keeping count of rain days.
 - **Golden LEAF Grant**
 - Clearing & grubbing work has come to a halt due to approximately 6" of rain. Negotiated quantities and costs for Change Order #1 to revise borrow/unclassified excavation and moving of topsoil from Airport side to make drive usable. Per invoices, approximately 62% job completion. Invoice # 3 (46,838.32) being processed this week. By contract calendar, behind schedule.
 - Verbally approved 8 rain days. Engineer advises we wait to approve rain days until end of project. Contractor suggest 2 weeks of dry weather needed to restart work and approximately 1 month for completion.
 - **SCIF Grant**
 - No update

- **NC Forest Service Region 1 HQ**
 - Still finalizing lease wording.
- **State Legislative Allocation for Infrastructure**
 - Reviewing Funding Priorities and requesting approval in Exhibit B Action Item
- ♦ **ACTION ITEM: Exhibit A**
 - Recommendation of \$10,000 contribution to the FCEMC/JSCC Smart Hydroponic Farm Project
 - EDC Board approved contribution with motion by Dean Lee, seconded by Roger Davis and passed unanimously.
- ♦ **ACTION ITEM: Exhibit B**
 - Finalize Funding Priorities for State Allocation
 - Board asked for addition of Site Development to the last bullet on exhibit
 - With addition, motion was made by Ken Smith, seconded by Dean Lee and passed unanimously.
- ♦ **STREET NAME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AIRPARK**
 - Board approved the name of Airpark Dr. for main road running from Airport Rd to W. Best Rd. Second road to roundabout will be named Futrelle Way and roadway into overnight stay buildings will be named DPL Dr.
 - Motion was made to approve the naming of the roads as specified by Roger Davis, seconded by Dean Lee and passed unanimously.
- ♦ **EDC'S DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - WestPark Industrial Park Well Project – Joe McKemey presented to the Board of County Commissioners the request for additional compensation for revision of project into two bids and the approval to rebid. BOCC approved request.
- ♦ **NAMED PROJECTS UPDATE**
 - **Project Freeze** – work progressing nicely; new hires by September
 - **Project ACC** - extension anticipated on grant; new hires at 50% and anticipating next 25% of OneNC Grant funds soon
 - **Project Heel** – no update
 - **Project WRJ** – no update
 - **Project Ginny** – no update
- ♦ **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
 - NCSE dues are increasing by \$5,000 per year; making total yearly dues \$25,000
- ♦ **OTHER NOTES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- ♦ **ADJOURNMENT**
 - The motion to adjourn the open session was made by Al Searles and seconded by Ken Smith and passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved by EDC Board Chairman:



 Chairman

4/5/24

 Date