

Economic Development Authority
Minutes
January 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.

The Lee County Economic Development Authority met in regular session Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse located in Jonesville, Virginia. Present were Chairman Greg Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer Liz Myers, Board Members Chad Hines, Mark Long and Ray Blair, Community Development Director Richard Johnson, Community Development Secretary Cathy Wilder and EDA Attorney Rick Callahan. A.J. Hatmaker participated in the meeting by phone. Vice-Chairman Paul Johnson was unable to attend meeting.

Chairman Edwards determined that a quorum was present then called the meeting to order.

Chairman Edwards called for a motion to allow Board Member A.J. Hatmaker to join the meeting by phone.

Chad Hines made a motion to allow Board Member A.J. Hatmaker to join the EDA meeting by phone. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of EDA Minutes

Chairman Edwards called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting.

Mark Long made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Approval of EDA Financial Report, Bills & Payments

Mark Long made a motion to approve the financial report, bills & payments for the month of January. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Community Roundtable-Chamber of Commerce

Director Johnson stated that he had spoken with several individuals regarding dates for a roundtable meeting. He said that the best dates would be the fourth Thursday of the month, February 24th or March 24th.

It was the consensus of the board to schedule a roundtable meeting for February 24, 2022.

Produce Auction Zoom Meeting

Director Johnson told the board members that a draft copy of producer and purchaser surveys were included in their board packets. He said that it was a working document and asked them to review the document to see if any changes needed to be recommended to Matson Consulting.

England Furniture Building

Director Johnson stated that he had mentioned at last month's meeting that England Furniture is requesting potential expansion of the restrooms.

New Business

VCEDA Disbursement Extension Request - Dryden Building

Director Johnson reported to the board the amount available in the VCEDA account.

Director Johnson stated that a copy of the VCEDA disbursement extension request letter was included in the board packets and that the deadline to get the letter to VCEDA is January 17, 2022.

Chad Hines made a motion to approve the VCEDA disbursement extension request letter to VCEDA for the Dryden Building. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Support - SOVA Gardens, FROG

Mark Long made a motion to approve a letter of support for SOVA Gardens. A.J. Hatmaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chad Hines made a motion to approve a letter of support for FROG. Ray Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports & Recommendations of the Board

Ray Blair asked who the individuals were that are involved in the inactive Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Edwards stated that there were three or four people, Bob Bost, Jeff Rowlett and Rita McCann. He said that roundtable will form a new group.

Ray Blair mentioned an individual that is involved with the Chamber in Wise County. He said that she offered to extend some help to our Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Blair said he would invite her to attend the roundtable meeting.

Ray Blair asked Director Johnson if the Tourism Committee would be involved in the roundtable. He stated that most of them had expressed interest.

Mark Long told the Board that night classes started January 10, 2022 at the Career Center at the Vo Tech School which will include classes for auto mechanics, welding, small engines and ag shop. He asked the board to spread the word.

Reports & Recommendations of the Director
Reimbursement for Produce Auction Feasibility Study

Director Johnson stated that the EDA has received the reimbursement for the feasibility study initial payment.

Grand Opening Ceremonies

Director Johnson stated that SOVA Gardens grand opening ceremony is scheduled for February 4, 2022 at 10:00 am and that D&D Smoke Shack expected opening is January 17, 2022.

MECC SBDC – Seed Capital

Director Johnson stated that the Small Business Development Center would begin accepting clients January 18, 2022 for VCEDA’s Seed Capital Matching Grant. He also stated that there was \$142,000.00 available with April 6, 2022 being the deadline for applications.

Property Adjacent to England Furniture

Director Johnson stated that the property adjacent to the Dryden building is owned by Natasha Carson.

Data Center World - VCEDA

Liz Myers made a motion to allow Director Johnson to attend Data World Center in Austin, Texas March 28 – March 31, 2022 and to use the Bank of America Purchasing Card for expenses to be reimbursed via the VCEDA Marketing Stipend. Mark Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EDA Training Session – TVA, Lenowisco

Director Johnson stated that TVA will provide training and that a session has been scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022 for EDA Board Members.

Chairman Edwards told the board members to contact Cathy Wilder if they were interested in attending.

Reimbursement for Miller Interactive Invoices (October, November, December)

Director Johnson stated that reimbursement for the amount of \$300.00 has been requested from the VCEDA Marketing Stipend Fund for the Miller Interactive invoices for October, November and December.

Executive Session

Chad Hines made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Section 2.2-3711A.4 (Protection of The Privacy of Individuals) and Section 2.2-3711A.7 (Consultation with Legal Counsel). Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ray Blair made a motion to come out of executive session. Chad Hines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Edwards polled the Board that they only discussed issues pertaining to the entry of executive session.

Ray Blair made a motion to adjourn. Liz Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Development Secretary
Cathy Wilder
January 19, 2022

Community Development Director
Richard Johnson II
January 25, 2022