

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2011.

EDC Members Present

Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Helene Caseltine, Alternate for the IR Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Mike Oschner, Alternate, Town of Indian River Shores
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community
Penny Chandler, IRCOC
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
Jan Pagano, Civic Organization

EDC Members Absent

Keith Kite, Tourist Industry
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere
Jeff Pegler, School Board
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach

Others Present

Christine Schroeder, Powder Coat Specialist
Wayne Schroeder, Powder Coat Specialist
Harry Dosberg, Powder Coat Specialist

IRC Staff

Sasan Rohani, Long Range Planning Chief
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner
Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4
Peter O'Bryan, Commissioner Liaison
Alan Polackwich, IRC County Attorney

Call to Order

Chairman Carson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and introductions were made.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of January 18, 2011 and February 15, 2011

ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Ms. Mitchell, the members voted unanimously (14-0) to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2011 and February 15, 2011 as presented.

Councilmember Coy arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Ms. Pagano arrived at 3:19 p.m.

Consideration of a Local Jobs Grant Request for Business Expansion

Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC, introduced a local powder coating company who was looking to expand their operations. She explained the powder coating company needed access to natural gas and was looking at a site west of town. She explained the powder coating company currently employed 15 people and was looking to add approximately 40 new jobs, paying an average of \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year with benefits and hoped to add a second shift in the near future.

Mr. Wayne Schroeder announced the name of the company was Powder Coat Specialist and they were looking to move their facilities out of the Sebastian area to a location with natural gas. He stated Powder Coat Specialist had been looking at a facility in Palm Bay, Florida and in Vero Beach, off of Interstate 95.

Mr. Schroeder noted powder coating was one of the greenest forms of coating in the world and replaced wet paint. He mentioned Powder Coat Specialist was one of only three powder coaters in the State approved by the Florida Department of Transportation. He briefly described powder coating and passed around several items that had been powder coated.

A lengthy discussion ensued on powder coating versus paint.

Mr. Harry Dosberg, President of Powder Coat Specialist, asked for the committee's support of a loan in the amount of \$75,000 upfront to cover moving expenses.

Ms. Caseltine explained with a typical jobs grant, the payments would begin after the jobs were in place, and this particular jobs grant would be structured differently, wherein the \$75,000 of the \$152,000 would be paid upfront to cover moving expenses. She added an agreement would be put in place.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Ms. Mitchell, the members unanimously (16-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve a Local Jobs Grant of up to \$152,000 and provide a one-time upfront loan payment of \$75,000, with the loan to be repaid by Powder Coat Specialist with revenue from the \$152,000 in local job grant funds.

Economic Development FY 2011/2012 Proposed Budget – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IR Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Caseltine reviewed the Economic Development FY 2011/2012 Proposed Budget and Marketing Plan, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She highlighted the following line items on the proposed budget:

- Requested funding from County in the amount \$130,376, a 10% increase from the previous year.
- Business Attraction (included advertising, print advertising in industry focus magazines, one-on-one appointments and visits with site location consultants, or travel for site selection consultants to Indian River County).
- Initiate a program to focus on local businesses.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Ms. Mitchell, the members voted unanimously (16-0) to approve the Economic Development FY 2011/2012 Proposed Budget and Marketing Plan.

Economic Development Report and Activities

Ms. Caseltine stated the Chamber was in the process of upgrading and revising the Economic Development Flash Drives and indicated the Tax Abatement Program for example needed to be added. She opined the flash drives should be ready within the next 30 to 45 days.

Ms. Caseltine mentioned an Enterprise Zone Workshop was scheduled for March 24, 2011 for those interested in learning more about the Enterprise Zone Program. She concluded there was legislation pending to eliminate the Florida Enterprise Zone Program and the Chamber had been misinformed that Senate Bill 1296 had been pulled when it had not, and was going through committee.

A lengthy discussion followed on the Enterprise Zone Program and Senate Bill 1296. It was suggested to make a recommendation that the BCC send a letter to the Legislative Delegation regarding Senate Bill 1296.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Mitchell, SECONDED BY Mr. Robinson, the members voted (15-1) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners send a letter in opposition to Senate Bill 1296 which would eliminate the Florida Enterprise Zone Program. Mr. Rogers opposed.

Ms. Caseltine stated the Solar Panel Manufacturing Company was looking for a temporary space to set up their assembly work and eventually building a facility for manufacturing. She mentioned the South Africa Aquaculture Company was recently in China looking for investors and had done a video promoting their project in Fellsmere, Florida.

Other Matters

Ms. Pagano announced Indian River State College (IRSC) received a small grant for the Small Business Development Center and was able to hire a part-time Business Analyst for the Sebastian and Vero Beach area.

Ms. Pagano continued that IRSC received another grant to hire two part-time individuals to assist second stage companies to grow and noted that in order to qualify; a business must employ 10 to 25 individuals with a gross revenue of \$500,000 to \$5 million dollars and had been in business for three years.

Councilmember Coy wanted to say a Special Thank You to Ms. Pagano on her hard work in bringing the Business Analyst to the Sebastian Area.

Ms. Chandler announced a Job Fair would be held on April 28, 2011 at the Indian River Mall.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.