

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, September 20, 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.irccgov.com/Boards/EDC/2011.

EDC Members Present

Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community
Penny Chandler, IR Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Jan Pagano, Civic Organization
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions

EDC Members Absent

James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Jeff Pegler, School Board
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, Alternate for the IRCOC
Laura Collings, Manpower Staffing Services
Jim O'Connor, City Manager, COVB
Ed Biershank, Press Journal
Richard Gissert, Northern Trust
Amy Brunjes, FPL
Max Macon, FPL

Others Present Continued

Krissy McNicholas, FPL
Cathy McKenzie, At&t
Kelly Nosler

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

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 August 2, 2011

There was no quorum present to approve the minutes of August 2, 2011.

Presentation By Florida Power & Light (FPL)

Ms. Amy Brunjes, External Affairs Manager and Max Macon, Regional Manager for Customer Service Field Operations, FPL gave a presentation on FPL services and distributed an information packet to the members, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Brunjes stated the mission of FPL was to provide clean, safe, reliable and low cost energy. She stated FPL was the largest electric utility in Florida which served 4.5 million customer accounts in Florida serving 35 counties with 13 Power Plants and was the leading employer in the state with approximately 10,000 employees. She noted the company consistently outperformed national averages for service reliability while customer bills were below the national average. She indicated FPL was the clean energy leader with one of the lowest emissions profiles and one of the leading energy efficiency programs among utilities nationwide and this was one of the reasons FPL was looking at becoming a utility provider with the City of Vero Beach (COVB).

Mr. Macon reviewed payment options, online services, and programs to help manage bills as well as energy saving incentives for both residences and businesses.

Ms. Brunjes indicated in November 2010, FPL was invited by the City of

Vero Beach to study whether or not they would be interested in purchasing the COVB Electric System. She stated before FPL made the determination on the COVB Electric System, all 34,000 COVB customers must be able to enjoy the same retail rates or negatively impact existing FPL Customers in the State.

Ms. Brunjes announced the State's Public Service Commission approved modifications to Florida Power & Light Company's electric service rate options, enabling the utility to provide an incentive for businesses to start up, expand or relocate to Vero Beach.

Ms. Brunjes pointed out new or expanding businesses that added a minimum of 350 kW of new electric load and created at least 10 new jobs per 350 kW of added load by June 1, 2013, could apply for the new economic development rates. After June 1, 2013, businesses wishing to take advantage of the rates would be required to add 25 new jobs per 350 kW of new electric load. She indicated eligible business customers received declining discounts on their standard base energy and demand charges over four years: 20 percent in the first year, 15 percent in the second, 10 percent in the third and 5 percent in the fourth.

A discussion ensued on FPL's Economic Development Rate for new businesses. Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan referred to the new economic development rates incentive and felt any business that created 10 new jobs should be eligible for the incentive.

Ms. Brunjes mentioned FPL was planning an Open House on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Vero Beach for anyone interested in meeting representatives from FPL.

A question was raised whether FPL had looked at running their system underground. Ms. Brunjes replied it was very costly; however there were some tariffs in affect where FPL does cost share with Municipalities if they qualify to run power underground. She offered to send additional information to anyone who may be interested.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the sale of the COVB Utilities to FPL.

Ms. Mitchell left at 4:05 p.m.

Economic Report Card

Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner, reviewed the information contained in his handouts of the Draft Copy of the Indian River

County Economic Report Card for September, 2011, on Average Annual Wage, Average Annual Employment, Total Wages and a summary on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Data.

Mr. Schutt highlighted on the following data contained in his report:

Largest Employers by Group

1. Healthcare – 7,839
2. Retail/Trade – 7,557
3. Accommodations and Food Services – 4,267
4. Public Administration – 3,002

Total Wages

1. Healthcare - \$319,795,289
2. Retail/Trade - \$187,512,295
3. Public Administration - \$135,149,428
4. Professional, Scientific & Tech - \$100,984,451

Economic Development Report and Activities

Ms. Caseltine reported the Industry Appreciation Awards Ceremony would be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at the Richardson Center.

Ms. Caseltine reported Dragon Fly Boats located in the Enterprise Zone, hired three new individuals and one of the new employees lived within the Enterprise Zone, so they were able to take advantage of the new jobs tax credit.

Ms. Caseltine mentioned a Federal Program called the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone Program), encourages small businesses to locate in and hire employees from economically disadvantaged areas of the United States. She added businesses participating in the program could receive competitive advantages in winning federal contracts. She had been informed recently the program would end on October 1, 2011; however there was legislation proposed by a Congressman which would delay it for three years. She said IRCOC was working with Congressman Posey and Senator Nelson's Offices to encourage them to support the legislation.

Ms. Caseltine indicated IRCOC would be submitting a proposal on a project referral sent from Enterprise Florida for a German Company which manufactured metal parts for medical and automotive industry looking at IRC.

Other Matters

- Announcements
 - Ms. Pagano mentioned the Research Coast Entrepreneur Summit being held at the Indian River State College Mueller Campus on September 28, 2011.
 - Mr. Zimmermann indicated there would be a City of Vero Beach Candidate Forum held on September 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Laurie Collings, Manpower Staffing Services, stated Manpower released its fourth quarter employment survey and the results showed employment increased 7% for the Southeastern Region which included the State of Florida. She referred anyone interested in the report to the website: www.us.manpower.com.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.