

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2011).*

### **EDC Members Present**

Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee  
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian  
James Kretsch, Member-At-Large  
Peter Robinson, Local Developer  
Helene Caseltine, Alternate for the IR Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)  
Jan Pagano, Civic Organization  
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee  
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large  
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions  
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry  
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores  
Doug Bournique, Local Industry (arrived 3:20)  
Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community (arrived 3:15)  
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large  
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (arrived 3:51)

### **EDC Members Absent**

Keith Kite, Tourist Industry  
Jeff Pegler, School Board  
William Penney, Banking Appointee  
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid  
Penny Chandler, IRCOC  
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere

### **Others Present**

Jim O'Connor, City Manager, City of Vero Beach

### **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 and September 20, 2011**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Councilmember Weick, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the August 2, 2011 and September 20, 2011 meeting minutes as presented.**

Aundrea Perry arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Doug Bournique arrived at 3:20 p.m.

## **Consideration of a Request form Girard Equipment, Inc. For a Local Jobs Grant**

Ms. Helene Caseltine stated Girard Equipment was a manufacturing company which moved to Vero Beach in the year 2006 from New Jersey. She said Girard Equipment manufactured safety valves/pressure relief vents and magnetic vacuum breakers for use by the tank container industry in transporting hazardous substances. She indicated 95% of Girard Equipment's product was sold outside the State of Florida and a good portion sold overseas with potential markets in South Africa and Australia.

Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner, reviewed the information in his memorandum, Consideration of a Request from Girard Equipment, Inc. for a Local Jobs Grant, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He stated it would be Girard Equipment's second local jobs grant application and they currently employed 17 individuals and planned to hire an additional 20 employees. He added Girard Equipment proposed to expand its operations into a portion of a former citrus packing house located at 4420 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach.

Mr. Schutt indicated as part of the process of evaluating Girard Equipment for participation in the County's Local Jobs Grant Program, County staff and the Chamber of Commerce staff conducted research on the company, its officers and agents. He noted Girard Equipment appeared not to have any legal problems that may be raised in providing them with public funds through the Local Jobs Grant Program.

Mr. Schutt referred to page 4 of his memorandum and reviewed the grant calculation for 20 new jobs for a Total Amount of \$77,000, payable over a three year period by phase. He indicated included in the grant calculation was a 10% Enterprise Zone bonus because Girard Equipment's current location and proposed location was in the Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Rogers referred to page 4 of the memorandum regarding the Jobs Grant Application Checklist number IV stating: *Verified statement (separate letter) naming every individual or entity having legal or equitable ownership in the property* was checked "no" and felt the owner of the property should be identified.

Ms. Caseltine stated as part of the due diligence of the Chamber of Commerce, they used Dun and Bradstreet reports to look up financials or liens. She stated the report on Girard Equipment was clean.

Mr. Schutt stated he had been communicating with Girard Equipment regarding the name of the owner of the property and the County Attorney to resolve the issue before the item went before the BCC for approval on November 1, 2011. A lengthy discussion followed and a suggestion was made for question number IV be reworded for clarification.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Kretsch, SECONDED BY Councilmember Weick, the members voted (14-1) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the Local Jobs Grant of up to \$77,000 for Girard Equipment payable over a three-year period. Mr. Rogers opposed.**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Stradley, SECONDED BY Mr. Robinson, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to recommend Question IV of the Jobs Grant Application Checklist which states, "*Verified statement (separate letter) naming every individual or entity, having legal or equitable ownership in the property*" be revised or clarified.**

Chairman Carson asked Mr. Schutt if he would follow up on the concerns expressed at the meeting regarding the Jobs Grant Application Checklist and brief the committee at the November EDC Meeting.

## **Economic Development Report and Activities**

Ms. Caseltine announced an Enterprise Zone Workshop would be held on October 27, 2011 in IRC County Administration Building "A", Room A2-230. She mentioned the Enterprise Zone Development Agency approved the Annual Report for the Enterprise Zone.

Ms. Caseltine mentioned several businesses located in County, but recently relocated to the Enterprise Zone:

Oculina Bank – *Bank Operations Center (19 jobs)*

Felix's – *Restaurant*

Dragon Fly Boats – *Manufactures Kayaks and Paddle Boats*

Ms. Caseltine reported she continued to talk and meet with several businesses expressing interest in relocating to Indian River County.

## **Economic Development Updates from Council Members**

A Roundtable discussion ensued regarding Economic Development.

Mayor Kramer arrived at 3:51 p.m.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City of Vero Beach, announced Flight Safety celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Monday, October 17, 2011. He mentioned from discussions with some of the hoteliers on the Oceanside, they reported a very good offseason.

Councilmember Coy gave an update on the Grand Opening of Hanger "B" at the City of Sebastian Municipal Airport and the Working Waterfront Fisherman's Landing.

Mr. Bournique expected a good Citrus Season and noted the prices remained decent for the oranges and grapefruit and the quality was exceptional.

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan announced the Cultural Council would be holding their Event Planner kickoff on October 20, 2011 at the Osceola Bistro. He stated the County and the Treasure Coast Sports Commission were working on a bid for a set of four tournaments at the Vero Beach Sports Village in the summer 2012. He reported at the BCC meeting on October 18, 2011, the BCC voted to approve a land swap of commercial and residential land at the Bistro Bay Subdivision and indicated there was a new owner of the property. He discussed a fund raising drive to raise Economic Development Funds for the private partners. At the November 15, 2011 BCC Meeting, he would request the

Board to consider participating in the Indian River Chamber's "Economic Leadership Alliance".

Ms. Pagano stated the Indian River State College's (IRSC) Entrepreneur Summit went very well and there was a plan to hold another summit in April 2012. She mentioned the upcoming Business Women's Summit Event on November 18, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center. She announced the Brown's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on IRSC Main Campus should open early 2012.

### **Other Matters**

There was none.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.