

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 4:00 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/2012.*

EDC Members Present

Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community
Helene Caseltine, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions
Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Claudia Jimenez, School Board
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry

EDC Members Absent

James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Penny Chandler, (IRCOC)

Others Present

Brian Bauer, Workforce Solutions

IRC Staff

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

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There was no quorum present at the time. He announced Buxton would be presenting at the October 16, 2012 EDC Meeting.

Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center Demonstration – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC

Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC, referred to the website www.FLVEC.com. The Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center is a web portal designed to connect entrepreneurs with business support organizations, programs and service providers who can support their new or growing business. She indicated the Chamber looked at it as part of the Chamber's business retention program because eventually the website would be populated with links to local companies in Indian River County.

Indian River County Vetting Process – Overview - Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC

Ms. Caseltine discussed the Indian River County Vetting Process for expanding and relocating companies and indicated the Chamber of Commerce as well as the County had a due diligence process in place which included criminal background checks, civil filings and pending litigation activities. She said it was important for expanding and relocating companies to know upfront in print and in writing of the due diligence process. She noted the applications for incentives were fully vetted before moving forward to the Board of County Commissioners for final consideration. She handed out a copy of the vetting process used in Indian River County to the members, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Alan Polackwich, IRC County Attorney, indicated the Vetting Process would protect the County through the due diligence process; however, he said it did not guarantee the success of the expanding or the relocating company to Indian River County. He briefly explained the County Attorney's office role in the County's vetting process and noted staff does a thorough records search through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) and other official and state sites on the firm and its principals.

A discussion ensued on the Indian River County Vetting Process. Ms. Caseltine pointed out there was no big check and companies had to demonstrate their promises and expectations whether it be relocation, expansion of the

company or the number of jobs created before receiving compensation or exemption. Attorney Polackwich stated the company each year was required to provide the County with an annual report confirming they continue to meet the criteria and if at any time the company failed to meet the criteria; the exemption would stop at that time.

Economic Development Activities – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC

Ms. Caseltine distributed a copy of the Economic Development Division Report for August 17, 2012 through September 14, 2012, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Caseltine stated the COVB recently approved a City Ordinance proposed by the Enterprise Zone Development Agency to provide a 50% exemption on municipal taxes on electricity for eligibility in the Enterprise Zone.

Ms. Caseltine wanted to acknowledge Workforce Solutions for putting together the Job Fair for laid off employees of the Digital Domain Media Group which closed on September 7, 2012.

Ms. Caseltine mentioned Friday, October 12, 2012, Florida, Power and Light in conjunction with a site consultant firm called Boyette Strategic Advisors were putting together a half day seminar on Economic Development 101. She indicated the event would be held in Port St. Lucie, but a venue had not yet been determined.

Other Matters

Vice Chairman Zimmermann brought up the November 20, 2012 EDC meeting which fell on the Thanksgiving Holiday week and mentioned a possibility of moving the EDC meeting to either Tuesday, November 16, 2012 or Tuesday, November 30, 2012.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.