

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A meeting was held of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 3:30 pm as a Virtual Meeting with limited attendance 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 meeting notes on the IRC website at <https://www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2020.htm>

EDC Members Present

Chairman Joe Idlette III, Gifford Community
Bruce Redus, BCC Appointee
Casey Lunceford, Indian River State College (IRSC)
Dori Stone, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Renick, Local Agriculture Industry
Jim Funk, Local Manufacturing Industry
John Dyer, Local Industry
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Ralph Turner, Local Healthcare Administrator
Sam Carroll, Town of Indian River Shores
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large
William Penney, Banking Industry
Peter D. O'Bryan, IRC Commissioner, District 4 (Non-Voting Commission Liaison)

EDC Members Absent

Anna Kirkland, Member-At-Large
Amber Batchelor, Sebastian Chamber of Commerce
Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
Chad Olson, Local Tourist Industry
Charles M. Mauti, City of Sebastian
Laura Zorc, School Board of Indian River County
Robbie Brackett, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere
Simms Browning, Town of Orchid
Tim Borden, Real Estate Appointee
Tracey McMorris, CareerSource Research Coast (Alt.)

Others Present

Arthur Rigby
Helene Caseltine, IRC Chamber of Commerce

IRC Staff

Bill Schutt, Chief, Long Range Planning
Matt Kalap, Long Range Planning
Phil Matson, Community Development Director, Community Development
Richard Bruce, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

(3:30 PM) Vice Chairman Joe Idlette III called the meeting to order. Mr. Bill Schutt explained to members how the meeting would operate using Zoom. Roll was taken and it was determined there was a quorum present.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of February 18, 2020

(3:36 PM) After review motion to approve the February 2020 minutes made by Casey Lunceford, second by Dori Stone. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Renewing the County's Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (Tax Abatement) Program- Bill Schutt, Long Range Planning

(3:40 PM) Bill Schutt spoke on how the issue of Tax Abatement was brought up ten years ago and how now the discussion is on if the Tax Abatement should be renewed or to let it expire. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Schutt spoke on how to incentivize the establishment of new businesses that create new jobs paying above average area wage. Mr. Schutt also spoke about eligible businesses which include industrial and manufacturing companies with at least 10 new wage eligible jobs, new corporate offices with at least 50 new eligible jobs, and business or organization establishing at least 25 eligible jobs with a sales factor resulting in high ratio of exports. He also spoke on the past use of the County Tax Abatement program and how only one application (INEOS New Planer Bioenergy) was approved due in part to the recession. Mr. Schutt used charts (attached) to show the INEOS taxes paid and abated as well as INEOS wages paid. He also mentioned the potential benefit to different sized companies, regional comparison, and general advantages and disadvantages of Tax Abatements. Based on the information, Mr. Schutt stated that the staff recommends that the EDC recommends that the BCC move forward with a referendum on whether or not to renew the Tax Abatement program on the November 2020 election ballot.

(3:59 PM) Mr. Sam Carrol asked if the surrounding counties are in the same category as Indian River County. Mr. Schutt stated that all counties are covered under Florida State Statute and must adhere to the same rules as IRC. Mrs. Helene Caseltine gave an example of how the program works. A discussion arose with how many people within the county were hired based on the information provided.

(4:03 PM) Motioned to have the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration and that the Tax Abatement renewal request be placed on the ballot. Motion made by Bill Penny, Second by Sam Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Matters —

(4:05 PM) Helene mentioned that the state legislature did not reauthorize the Target Industry tax refund program on June 30, 2020. Also, the manufacturing program will be postponed to 2021.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated how he will present the information that was motioned to the Board of County Commissioners for review and vote. He also stated how everything is slowly coming back to normal, but to please wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash hands.

Mr. Ralph Turner wanted to state he was available for any questions for the hospital. Mr. Ardra Rigby asked if transportation would be available for people who want to be tested. Mr. Turner stated that that decision would be up to Lundy Fields.

Adjournment

(4:10 PM) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting date: July 21, 2020, at 3:30 PM.