



MINUTES – March 15, 2022
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economic Development Council held in the
Indian River County Administration Building B
Conference Room B1-501
1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL at
3:30 PM on Tuesday, March 15, 2022

23 Members / 12 Quorum

1. Call to Order

Dori Stone, Chair, called the March 15, 2022 meeting of the Indian River County Economic Development Council to order at 3:30 PM

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Dori Stone, Indian River Chamber of Commerce
Brian Bauer, Career Source
John Dyer, Local Industry
Danny Markford, Local Manufacturing
Lee Hunter, Tourist Industry
Joe Idlette, III, Gifford Community
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian
Anna Kirkland, Member at Large
Bob McCabe, City of Vero Beach
Bob Morgan, Sebastian Chamber
William Penney, Banking Representative
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
J. Rock Tonkel, BCC Appointee

Members Absent

Tim Borden, Real Estate Industry
Simms Browning, Town of Orchid
Sam Carroll, Jr., Town of Indian River Shores
Todd Howder, Member at Large
Jerry Renick, Agricultural Industry
Jessica Salgado, City of Fellsmere
Casey Lunceford, Indian River State College
Peggy Jones, Indian River County School Board
Ralph Turner, MD, Healthcare Industry
Karl Zimmerman, Member at Large

Also Present

Peter O'Bryan, Commissioner, District 4
Helene Caseltine, EDC Director, IRC Chamber of Commerce
John Stoll, Chief, Long Range Planning
Phil Matson, Director Community Development
Andy Sobczak, Assistant Director, Community Development
Bill Collins, IRC Community Development
Andi Smith, Indian River Chamber of Commerce
Maura Stokes, Recording Secretary

QUORUM – *The minimum quorum requirements were met.*

3. Approval of Minutes -

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

4. Discussion Items

- a. Economic Development Budget for FY 22-23 – Helene Caseltine

Helene Caseltine was present and provided an overview of the proposed FY 22-23 Budget for the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Department. Helene commented that there were not a lot of changes. There was a 3.7% increase over the current year. The figures included are actual costs and not estimates. Helene explained that there was a fluctuation in the line item 14-15 because the County was paying that portion and what they are proposing this year is that the private sector pick up 20% of the benefits and unemployment costs. The prior person in that position had opted out of some of those benefits. There will be savings found in the travel section due to classes being offered online. The final budget is due to the Budget Office on May 01, 2022.

Bob McCabe made a motion, seconded by Bill Penney to approve the proposed EDC Budget for FY 22-23. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Visioning Update – Phil Matson

Phil Matson, Community Development Director was present and provided an update on the Indian River County Visioning plan. Approximately every ten years we take stock of where we are as a community, what we value, what we want to be, etc. We try to get guiding principles out of the visioning effort. From the guiding principles, we turn those in to land development regulations, codes, and comprehensive plan amendments. To date, we have held three workshops. Two were held during the daytime hours at the iG Center with over 100 residents at each workshop which represented a broad sector of the community. One meeting was held in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning meeting.

To summarize the workshops, we are still in mid-process. Not surprisingly, conservation of sensitive environmental habitats and land were at the top of the priority list. Affordable housing was right behind conservation land, then economic development. The visioning principles again are the conservation of sensitive environmental lands; diversity of housing types that include affordable options; infrastructure improvements that provide mobility and multimodal transportation options; promote a healthy economy; maintain agriculture; and maintain rural character.

We have a fairly rigid code in our County. Simple strategies discussed included allowing solar farms and allowing compatible activities as permitted use in Ag lands; allow accessory dwelling units up to 50% of principal dwelling; flexibility in splitting parcels; and encouragement of infill and redevelopment.

Because the Ag area seems to be in decline, some complex strategies include allowing more uses in Ag zoning districts with protections for existing farms and ranches; increase ag density; amend new town ordinances; and urban service boundary adjustments.

Discussion continued regarding moving the urban service line and accessory dwelling units. The County's Comprehensive Plan Update is due in 2024 so there is time left. This will be a guiding document for that plan update.

c. Upcoming Economic Summit – Stuart, Fl – March 25, 2022 - Helene Caseltine

Helene Caseltine noted that the address on the flyer is incorrect. The summit will be held at the Wolf Technology Center at IRSC in Stuart on SE Salerno Road not Monterey Road.

New Business

Helene Caseltine shared that we were approved for a Foreign Trade Zone through Fort Pierce. Helene will be meeting with the Stan Payne who is the Port Director at the Port of Fort Pierce. This means that companies that are in a foreign trade zone, if they are importing raw materials, its almost as if they are not on US soil, they are not charged duties on their product.

Next Meeting **July 19, 2022 – 3:30 PM**

5. Adjournment

Being no further business, Dori Stone, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stokes
Recording Secretary