

**Loudon County Economic Development Agency/  
Joint Economic and Community Development  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Williamson House  
March 21, 2018**

**The following members were present:** Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, Ron Jordan, Charlie Bettis, Mayor Jim Greenway, Eddie Simpson, Harold Duff, Bruce Giles, Amber Scott-Kelso, Michael Bobo

**Also present were:** Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens, LCEDA staff members Jack Qualls and Blair Patterson, citizens at large

Chairman Buddy Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes from the December 15, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting**

The previous meeting minutes were emailed to the members prior to the meeting for their review. **Ron Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bruce Giles. Motion carried.**

**Financial Report**

Charlie Bettis presented the Profit and Loss Statement for this fiscal year to date being July 2017 through February 2018. Blair Patterson pointed out the \$20,000 reimbursable expense being the Innovate Pets utility reimbursement split through the City of Loudon and County, and the \$3,000 being the TEP membership which will be reimbursed through Lenoir City and Loudon Utility Boards. Charlie also presented the Balance Sheet for February 2018, reviewing current assets, fixed assets, liabilities and equity. The conversation in regards to moving the Certificates of Deposit once the new fiscal year begins occurred, the EDA staff will gather the best interest rates offered and bring them to the board.

**Ron Jordan made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Bruce Giles. Motion carried.**

**Amendment of the FY 18-19 Proposed Budget**

The Executive Committee had previously passed the recommendation of the proposed LCEDA FY 18-19 Budget to go to the board for amendment. **A motion was made by Bruce Giles to approve the amendment of the Proposed FY 18-19 Budget, seconded by Ron Jordan. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Project Activity Update**

Jack Qualls gave the following project and prospect activity updates:

- Innovation Valley released their global publication magazine; Loudon County has a page feature in the magazine. Monterrey Mushroom and Malibu were featured as well.
- Project co-locating with existing industry, producing fertilizer through compost within Monterrey Mushroom
- Project Flamingo – 3 jobs to start will expand to 25, works with boating manufacturers
- Small project moving from a different area in the region, 18 jobs, getting closer to supply chain
- Expansions to be announced soon

- Large project – we are one of the two locations in the state of TN, competing with 8 other states, 100 jobs first year and 1,500 year five, wages range with an average annual salary of \$65,000, this project is viewed as a tier one industry
- Invest Prep grant for Hutch Property through TVA
- Tennessee Downtowns Grant - submitted
- Splash Pad Grant - submitted
- City of Loudon – ADA Transition Plan
- Tennessee ECD Rural Listening Tour occurred in Lenoir City
- Three Star Grant – submittals
- Loudon County TDOT Title 6 plan approved
- Courthouse Revitalization fund is in good standing

Amber Scott-Kelso gave the following transportation project updates for the City of Lenoir City:

- Harrison Road – final coat and striping the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Simpson Road – around 70% complete in closings
- Downtown Streetscapes Phase 2 – ROW plans submitted to TDOT, bid out June or July, 98% funded project through grants

Jack Qualls gave the following transportation project updates:

- ITS projects for the City of Lenoir City and City of Loudon – CMAQ funds , traffic signals , reached out to TDOT to get the projects funded due to their location being on state routes
- Buttermilk Road – final stages of being put out to bid, looking to get out in next 3 weeks
- Tellico Parkway Lighting Project at 72 – 120 day review period
- Dixie Lee Junction – on track to complete in August
- State Aid Resurfacing of 12 roads – out for bid within the next week, 21 day RFQ
- Blair Bend Resurfacing Project – 120 Day review period for utilities
- Highlands Avenue Resurfacing Project – put out for bid within next two weeks, currently being reviewed
- Hubbell Pedestrian Crossing – complete, Fast Track Grant
- CMAQ Vehicle Replacement – no update in progress for funds
- Queener Road – turned titles into TDOT, waiting for okay to proceed

### **Workforce Development/Young Talent Update**

Blair Patterson gave the following workforce development and young talent updates:

- LCEDA hosted their first Local Industry Summit in February. The event was held at the Venue at Lenoir City and consisted of 12 industries – HR and Plant Managers, TVA and State representatives, Lenoir City and Loudon County schools, 3 colleges, and UTK Center for Industrial Services. The event gave an opportunity for Industry and Education collaboration into workforce and filling the talent pipeline. Positive feedback was given and the EDA has plans to host events similar to this one on a quarterly basis.
- LCEDA hosted a Job Fair in February with 12 industries and 3 educational institutions. Over 60 local job seekers attended, with half of those in attendance being employed and the other half being unemployed.
- Innovation Valley has been working on creating a shared workforce presentation and story. The team includes Loudon, Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties. The first item the group will complete

is a High School CTE Career Cluster inventory packet to make available for prospects and the community.

- Lenoir City High School recently received a work-based learning grant. With this grant, they will be hosting their first annual Industry Expo on April 5<sup>th</sup>. They have received 10-15 local industry commitments for participation.
- **Young Professionals of Loudon County**
  - Formed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
  - Following the Young Talent Strategy Session that occurred in October, a Steering Committee met to then identify a larger group of young professionals in the area
  - This is an economic and community development initiative to attract and retain young talent in the area
  - The budget line allocated for Workforce Dev/YP is a rollover from TVA ED funds, and it is requested that the YPLC group begin operating within that budgeted category and operate within our account
  - The YPLC age range is 21-40
  - Our current median age is 48.3 whereas Knox County's is 35, this is not a good aspect in regards to the future of our workforce
  - The goal is to attract and retain young professionals to our community
  - This is a program of LCEDA from a workforce standpoint, operating under EDA
  - The Board would like to see representation from both cities and the county
  - The first step in the process is identification of YP's who currently live and work in the county; retention is the beginning focus to form the group with attraction being the next step in the future. Re-attraction will also be a focus of the group to reach out to the local high school students in hopes they will come back home after college.
  - Loudon County was one of the only areas in the region that did not have a YP group formed.
  - This is not only a workforce initiative/strategy for the counties future in regards to available skilled labor, but also a community livability initiative for the counties appeal.
  - Young Talent initiatives are a push from TVA and the region/state

**Bruce Giles made a motion to approve Young Professionals of Loudon County operate under Loudon County EDA and use TVA Economic Development funding found in the Workforce and Young Professionals budget line, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.**

#### Additional Business

- **Greenway Committee**

Jack Qualls brought up that the Loudon County Greenway Committee was originally formed under the county with the EDA sitting as a member and also acting as staff. Jack suggested the committee be re-formed with a different approach and asked for the board's knowledge in the history of EDA's purpose and expectations for the committee. Jack asked the Board for guidance. The City of Lenoir City and City of Loudon will come together to discuss and collaborate on the desired future of a Greenway Committee.

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- **Company Credit Card**  
The LCEDA will bring a Company Credit Card Policy to the board for approval.
- **Meeting Frequency**  
The Executive Committee and Board of Directors are required to meet at a quarterly frequency. We will continue meeting at this rate, with the exception of special meetings being called when necessary.
- **Public Records Policy**  
The Public Records Policy was reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval of adoption. **Bruce Giles made a motion to approve the adoption of the Loudon County Economic Development Agency Public Records Policy, seconded by Ron Jordan. Motion carried.**

With no further business **Ron Jordan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eddie Simpson. Motion carried.**

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Blair Patterson, Recording Secretary