

**Loudon County Economic Development Agency/
Joint Economic and Community Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Williamson House
March 14th, 2019**

The following members were present: Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, Charlie Bettis, Mayor Jeff Harris, and Mayor Tony Aikens

Also present were: BOD Members Eddie Simpson, Harold Duff, John Evans (proxy for Ron Jordan), Bruce Giles, and Bob Elliott, Ex-Officio Members Amber Scott, Ty Ross, and Clayton Pangle, Loudon City Councilman Tim Brewster, County Commissioner David Meers, News Herald reporter Jonathan Herrmann, citizen Pat Hunter, and LCEDA staff members Jack Qualls and Blair Patterson

Chairman Buddy Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the February 14th, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes were emailed to the Members prior to the meeting for their review. **Jeff Harris made a motion to approve the February 14th, 2019 minutes, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.**

Recommendation to Accept the Proposed FY 19-20 Budget

Jack Qualls stated that the funding requests have not increased and will remain the same. There is a 2.5% salary increase reflected that coincides with the County and both Cities.

Jack wanted to bring forward some large items in the next fiscal year's program of work. Some of these items include: TVA economic development training, updating the existing industry directory, handling the Three-Star program, continuing transportation project administration, and working to design a talent pipeline program with the local schools for workforce development efforts.

Jeff Harris asked what all is involved with the Three-Star program.

Blair Patterson stated that they are on track with Three-Star requirements to this date. June 22nd is the deadline for submitting three "smart goals" with one of those being focused on workforce development. There will be a community forum with the State's ECD to help us coordinate the best goals for our community leading to grant opportunities.

Jack asked if there are any further questions for him on the program of work and proposed budget.

Jeff Harris made a motion to recommend the acceptance of the proposed FY 19-20 Budget, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.

Recommendation to Opt in or Opt out of Retiree Health Insurance Coverage

The state is requiring local government agencies to either opt in or opt out of offering retiree health insurance coverage. If the board chooses to opt in there is an option to opt out in the future, but if the choice is made to opt out this decision cannot be changed.

Tony Aikens made a motion to recommend the LCEDA opt in to offer retiree health insurance coverage, seconded by Jeff Harris. All approved.

LCEDA Credit Card Policy

The LCEDA staff are currently using their personal credit cards for various business expenses. The credit card policy was presented to the executive committee. Jack and Blair would both receive cards operating out of the same account with a \$5,000 limit.

Tony Aikens made a motion to recommend the adoption of the LCEDA Credit Card Policy, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.

Centre 75 – Agriculture Lease

Jack stated that at the last meeting he was asked to reach out to an attorney to provide legal advice on the Ag Lease Contract. The quote for the legal services came out to \$1,860 to conduct the review and interpretation of the document. Mr. James told Jack that he is going to pay the lease and would like to continue with business as usual.

Tony Aikens made a motion to take this issue to the full Board of Directors along with the next line item concerning the LCEDA Office Location, seconded by Jeff Harris. All approved.

Loudon County EDA Office Location

A prior motion was made to take this line item to the full Board of Directors.

Additional Business

- TVA Community Livability Initiative – Applying
- Pedestrian and Bicycle crash locations in Loudon and Lenoir City – Data Availability
- TPO Paving Map System – the cities and/or county have the option to hire a company to survey all roadways in jurisdiction using GIS to display conditions with a data-based planning approach – this update is just for information purposes if there is interest to participate

With no further business, **Jeff Harris make a motion to adjourn seconded by Tony Aikens, all approved.**

Blair Patterson, Recording Secretary