

Minutes for Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation meeting 2:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

Board Members in attendance: Lisa Sulka, David Bennett, Steve Fobes, Rich Gough, Joe Lee, Mike Alsko, and Stephen Murray.

Chairman Stephen Murray opened the meeting and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stephen Murray welcomed new members, Steve Fobes, Beaufort County Councilman, Rich Gough, president of the Technical College of the Lowcountry, and Mike Alsko, the director of operations at Hargray Communications.

Stephen Murray said he emailed out meeting minutes from the August 24th meeting and motioned for approval. Lisa Sulka seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Stephen Murray said that at the last meeting they approved an RFQ document find a facilitator to help with the strategic planning process, to find out what exactly the corporation ought to do and to set some strategy for Beaufort County's overall economic development plan. He said we released the RFQ and he was very happy that we received 11 responses by close, 3 p.m. last Friday. He said it was a lot more than I thought we would receive and I was very happy with not only the number but the diversity of responses. He said he thought Mike said it best, "it was east to west, north to south, solo practitioners to firms of 500 employees". So that means that we've got our work cut out for us. He sent out a scoring Matrix with each of the facilitators listed based upon the criteria we had set in the RFQ and the assigned point matrix and asked that folks would score each of those in advance of the meeting. Because it is a contractual issue and it deals with personnel to an extent, it is prudent for us to go into executive session. Stephen Murray asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the facilitator RFQ. Joe Lee made the motion. All members voted in favor. Beaufort County Deputy Administrator Josh Gruber was asked to remain for the executive session. Beaufort County Administrator Gary Kubic was also asked to stay but declined.

38 minute executive session followed.

Stephen Murray said we have reviewed the facilitator RFQ and we have narrowed the 11 respondents down to the top three. They will be contacted in the next few days and we will be setting up interviews the following week to ask them some specific questions about their process.

The group discussed the next meeting date and time.

Joe Lee said we talked about setting a permanent meeting time. Stephen Murray said they had been waiting for a full board to be seated but we had discussed some sort of standing meeting schedule. He said he is flexible either way. Lee suggested the second Wednesday of the month. Gary Kubic asked who is recording minutes of the meeting. Stephen Murray said he is recording the meeting and has someone who will transcribe them.

Stephen Murray said the second Wednesday won't work for him because he will be out of town the second Wednesday for the next six months but the third Wednesday would work, so for October that would be the 19th. Joe Lee said 2:30 p.m. is good. Stephen Murray asked if the group would like to go back to Beaufort the next month since they've done two meetings at Bluffton now.

The meeting was set for 2:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at the County Administrative Building. Stephen Murray said he would confirm with Josh Gruber and Gary Kubic that the room is available.

Stephen Murray asked if anyone else had anything for the good of the group. When no one offered any comments, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Joe Lee made the motion.