

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
February 16th – Regular Meeting – 2:00 pm
Southern Carolina Landing Pad
500 Carteret Street, Beaufort, SC

Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, McElynn, Rodriguez, Sulka, Shelton, Sisino
Absent: Alsko, Dallas, Gough, Mantua, Murray, Fobes
Staff: O’Toole, Stone
Guests: Brown, Dawson, Forster, Glover, Marshall, Ricks

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the confidential projects; Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:03 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:42 pm. No motions or votes were taken in executive session. Public session followed.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve January 19th minutes, Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously.

O’Toole reviewed the BCEDC’s 2022-2023 operating budget. O’Toole reviewed Dominion UTC funds and SCDOC grants that are shown as revenue. These items are flow through funds that come in and go out due to pre-determined obligated use for funds. The BCEDC has submitted the \$40,000 budget request for the four municipalities. The BCEDC will look to sit down with leadership from Town of Bluffton and Town of Port Royal to review the request.

Warren Parker updated the BCEDC on the activity of the South Coast Cyber Center. The South Coast Cyber Summit will be hosted in Beaufort on March 20-21. Congresswoman Nancy Mace will kick off the event on Day 1. Additional speakers include Major General Stanton, CEO of the Ports Authority Barbara Melvin, and Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ashley Teasdel. Warren Parker recently completed a trip to Israeli and secured cyber leads for the BCEDC and South Coast Cyber Center.

O’Toole provided an update on the BCEDC’s site and job fund. No changes have been made since the last board meeting in January.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve a \$2,000 per job incentive to Project Tomato for the 69 jobs depicted on the Project Tomato project worksheet. In addition, Project Tomato will receive an additional \$1,000 per job incentive for up to 37 hires that can be shown to be Beaufort County residents at the time. For a total sum of up to \$175,000; Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously.

O’Toole provided an update on Project Lawn. The BCEDC will pay out the first installment of the pledged grant to Project Lawn. This payment will be \$75,000. The BCEDC will pay a 2nd grant payment of \$75,000 at a later date.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to reappoint Carlton Dallas, Steve Fobes, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, and Greg Shelton to the BCEDC board; and in addition, appoint Dr. Andrea Sisino as a replacement to Dr. Al Panu and appoint Mayor Alan Perry as the Town of Hilton Head Island's representative; Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously.

The BCEDC will be attending Beaufort County Council's Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 21st to discuss SCA board reappointments.

The BCEDC hosted the Converge Economic Summit on January 30th. The event had great attendance with over 300 attendees and presentations from General Lloyd 'Fig' Newton, Danny Black of SCA, and SC Department of Commerce. The BCEDC recently presented the \$75,000 grant to support Blacquity. The BCEDC will be inviting board members to the next Blacquity graduation. The BCEDC is working with Robyn Zimmerman on a blog for the BCEDC website as well as working with a tool that tracks website interactions. Currently, there are over \$92 million and 721 new jobs in the BCEDC's project pipeline.

Stone provided an update on his participation in Cornell University's Executive Leadership Certification. Stone has completed the Quality and Service Excellence course and is currently enrolled in the Leading Collaborative Teams course.

The EDC will be hosting a chalet at the MCAS Beaufort Air Show on April 21st.

O'Toole provided an update on SCA. The BCEDC will be participating in the Select USA event with SCA. SCA will be hosting a box at the RBC Heritage. The BCEDC is also working with the SCA on a lead for the landing pad – a Vietnamese company that is setting up operations in SCA territory.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.