

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
Regular Meeting – June 15, 2023
2:00 pm Technical College of the Lowcountry
100 Community College Drive, Bluffton, SC

Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, Rodriguez, Sulka, Willis, Alsko, Carns, Arnette, Murray, Dallas, Sisino,
Perry, Azallion-Kinney, Braun
Absent: McElynn
Staff: O'Toole
Guests: Glover, Brown, Passiment, Arvantides, Forster, Amundson, Braun, Fragale, Maxwell

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the confidential projects; Murray moved; Sulka seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:01 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Alsko moved; Murray seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:30 pm. No motions or votes were taken in the executive session. A public session followed.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve May 20, 2023, minutes, Sulka moved; Murray seconded; approved unanimously.

The board voted to appoint the following new members to 4-year terms, Joel Braun, Mellissa Azallion-Kinney and Blakely Williams, Murray moved, Sulka seconded, approved unanimously.

O'Toole reviewed the BCEDC's 2022-2023 operating budget. O'Toole reviewed the budget lines that were not on budget but pointed out the BCEDC would finish the fiscal year underbudget. Braun asked for clarification on the budget being significantly under budget. O'Toole provided details on the 3rd position in the BCEDC which has not been filled.

The board voted to appoint Greg Shelton as treasurer to replace Steve Fobes who moved out of the region, Murray moved; Dallas seconded; approved unanimously.

The board voted to approve the 2023 -24 budget as presented by staff for an operation budget of \$829,754, a site and job fund budget of \$1,273,915 and a total budget of \$2,103,669, Murray moved, Alsko seconded; approved unanimously.

O'Toole provided an update on the Site and Job Fund Budget for the current FY 23 and FY 24 to reflect recently approved grants and known commitments.

O'Toole introduced Project Green. Project Green is an existing industry in the county that manufactures architectural laminate panels. The company is planning to make \$8,600,000 capital investment at its existing site to increase capacity. The company expects to create 25 new jobs. The company is already in the area and is looking to expand their industrial laundry presence in the Lowcountry. Staff recommended a grant of \$50,000. The board discussed the project. Murray moved; Sulka seconded; approved unanimously.

Carns provided an overview of the Technical College of the Lowcountry's planned Gen. Arthur Brown workforce training center. Murray had follow-up questions on current enrollments and campus utilization at TCL's various campuses.

Maxwell provided an update on SCA's activities highlighting its marketing plans for the balance of the year.

O'Toole provided an update on the staff's activities. He specifically provided update on the BCEDC's work to solicit proposals for Bluffton's Buckwalter Place and the RFP for a second speculative building in the Beaufort Commerce Park.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.