

Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
April 25, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 2:00 pm
Technical College of the Lowcountry, New River Campus
100 Community College Drive, Bluffton, SC

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alsko, Cromer, Feaster, Forster, Gough, Gilbert, Kenny, Maxwell, Passiment, Perry, Shelton, Thigpen, Williams

Staff: O'Toole, Brunson

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion by Cromer to go into Executive Session at 2:05pm. Alsko seconded; approved unanimously.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to end Executive Session by Cromer; Alsko seconded; approved unanimously. Executive Session ended at 2:15pm.

Introductions were made around the room.

There was no public comment.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve March 21st minutes made by Cromer; Alsko seconded; approved unanimously.

O'Toole presented the option to enter an SSRC for Project Micro. This would be a 20-year agreement for the capital investment of \$7 million. The motion was made by Cromer and seconded by Alsko. All approved unanimously. This will be brought before County Council for approval.

Norris Thigpen, Director of Agribusiness, presented an update on behalf of SC Department of Agriculture. Thigpen reviewed the recent projects completed in Beaufort County and emphasized the importance of agriculture in Beaufort County. BCEDC is thankful for the partnership and support with the state Department of Agriculture.

The BCEDC received a proposal from a local developer for the construction of a second speculative building within the Beaufort Commerce Park. O'Toole presented before Beaufort City Council on April 23rd and received approval to move forward with the project. Kenny made a motion to accept the proposal as presented; Alsko seconded, and all approved unanimously.

O'Toole reviewed the job and site fund.

BCEDC accepted proposals from engineering firms and went through an interview process with a subcommittee of the board. O'Toole presented the four engineering firms that the subcommittee recommended for BCEDC to work with for the next three years. BCEDC will submit any new projects to these engineering firms for the scope of work and to receive proposals from the respective firms. Alsko made a motion; Cromer seconded, and all approved unanimously. The firms approved were Alliance Consulting Engineers; Davis & Floyd; Thomas & Hutton; Seamon & Whiteside.

SouthernCarolina presented information regarding the RBC Heritage and the success of hosting six active projects that week. Maxwell shared there would be 2-3 announcements in Jasper County and one announcement in Barnwell forthcoming. O'Toole will be attending SelectUSA on SCA's behalf in June.

O'Toole presented the current scorecard. At this time, BCEDC staff should hit all targets before the end of the fiscal year. O'Toole also reviewed the near-term projects.

Brunson reviewed the details of the social media spend centered around the RBC Heritage. It was a small start with a first ever dedicated marketing campaign, and it performed well. With the learnings from this campaign, BCEDC will look to work with their marketing vendor to produce a year long marketing campaign centered around business relocation and quality of life.

O'Toole provided an update on the product plan. The County Finance Director is working to continue to find a source of revenue for BCEDC which would allow for the product plan development.

There was no new business.

Cromer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kenny seconded, and all approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.