

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A meeting was held of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th St., Vero Beach, Florida. Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2017.

EDC Members Present

Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Penny Chandler, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere
Laura Moss, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Bob Auwaerter, Town of Indian River Shores
Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
Jim Funk, Manufacturing Appointee
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Casey Lunceford, IRSC
Laura Zorc, School Board of Indian River County
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Joe Idlette III, Gifford Community
Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4, Non-Voting Commission Liaison

EDC Members Absent

Thomas Buck, Town of Orchid
John Dyer, Local Industry
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry
Dan Richey, Citrus Industry
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Mike Lafferty, Real Estate Appointee

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Redus, volunteer at IRC Chamber of Commerce
Noah Powers, Town Manager, Town of Orchid

IRC Staff

Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner
Sasan Rohani, Chief, Long-Range Planning
Tina Cournoyer, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of April 18, 2017

ON MOTION BY Mr. Zimmermann, SECONDED BY Ms. Lunceford, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to approve the minutes of April 18, 2017 meeting.

2017 Legislative Summary—Its Effect on Economic Development in FL--by Ms. Helene Caseltine, Director of Economic Development

Ms. Caseltine announced that Visit FL was fully funded at \$76 million, Enterprise FL was not fully funded at \$16 million, of which \$6 million was for international activities. Additionally, she said the Legislature approved Governor Scott's request for \$85 million for incentives.

Proposed Changes to Local Jobs Grant Program Award Computation Methodology
—by Mr. Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner

Mr. Schutt had previously distributed the information via email and used PowerPoint slides during the meeting to explain the proposal to change the way the IRC Local Jobs Grant Program Awards are computed. A copy of his presentation is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Schutt reviewed the current process and methodology used to calculate payments. He said the businesses had complained that they had a difficult time understanding the calculation of the awards and overall felt it was too complex. The IRC Community Development Department had devised a simpler way of calculating those payments using averages; Mr. Schutt presented it by way of examples of existing payment recipients. He explained the new methodology was based on average company wage and average number of employees each quarter, and it would give credit to the company for jobs filled for a partial year. While the proposed average methodology was simpler, it would increase the total payments slightly, because the current system did not pay for partially-filled positions, but it would never exceed the Commission-approved maximum level of payments.

Mr. Schutt concluded by providing the Staff recommendation: that the Economic Development Council recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the use of the proposed new methodology for calculating jobs grant payments.

Several members expressed concerns. The discussion can be heard on the audio recording of the meeting. Although there were many benefits given, primarily the ease of which the grant applicant would understand the calculation process, the EDC members' overall did not agree there was enough benefit to equal the additional payout that would accompany the new methodology. The consensus was to table this item indefinitely and that the EDC could review further if an alternative methodology would prevent paying out additional funds.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Chandler, SECONDED BY Ms. Mitchell, the members voted 15-0 to disapprove the proposed Local Jobs Grant Program Award Computation Methodology, and to table the item.

Attachment 3

Further conversation suggested perhaps the level of compensation, which were set in 2009, should be reevaluated to see if it is out of date.

Proposed Development Review Changes—by Chairman Peter Robinson

Mr. Robinson announced Proposed Development Review Changes was discussed at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting this morning, June 20, 2017. The back-up from that meeting was provided to the EDC members and is on file in the Commission office. The IRC Community Development department presented proposed changes to the development review process to the BCC.

Commissioner O'Bryan added there were three proposed change items discussed (landscaping, temporary suspensions of certificate of occupancy, and proposed fee structure), but the fee structure was the prominent issue. He said the BCC voted to resurrect the PSAC (Professional Services Advisory Committee) with an automatic 1-year sunset.

Commissioner O'Bryan said also mentioned were the need to generate more revenue for the building department without fees excessively, as well as attempt to incorporate innovation and updates while keeping in mind the lack of affordable housing in our area.

Other EDC matters

None presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **4:27 p.m.**

Next meeting date: July 18, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.