



Oconee County Economic Development Commission

Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2013

The Oconee County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC) meeting was held September 13, 2013 at the Commission office, 502 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

- Dave Eldridge, District I
- Vacant, District II*
- Hank Field, District III
- Sammy Dickson, District IV
- Gene Blair, District V

Ex- Officio Members:

- Scott Moulder, Oconee County Administrator
- Paul Corbeil, Council Economic Development Committee Chair
- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri-County Technical College
- Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, School District of Oconee County
- Jeanne L. Ward, President/CEO, Oconee Medical Center
- Marvin Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Assistant to the President, Clemson University
- Robert C. Winchester, Director, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
- Jim Gadd, Executive Director, Oconee Alliance
- John Lummus, VP Economic Development, Tri-County Technical College
- David Stokes, Building Codes Department / Planning Commission

EDC Staff:

- Richard K. Blackwell, Executive Director
- Russell Johnson, Project & Marketing Manager
- Megan Ballenger, Admin. Assistant

Members of Council:

- Reg Dexter, Oconee County Council Member
- Archie Barron, Oconee County Council Member

Special Guests:

- Dr. Michael Thorsland, School District of Oconee County
- Jonathan Dicks, Senator Graham's Office
- Bozo Richards, Citizen

News Media:

- Dick Mangrum, WGOG
- Norm Cannada, The Journal
- Ray Chandler, Anderson Independent Mail

Call to Order:

Mr. Field, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum of appointed OCEDC Commissioners was present.

Action to Approve the Agenda:

Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's OCEDC meeting as presented. Commissioner Blair moved the agenda be approved as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Field asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the August OCEDC meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Dickson moved the Minutes be approved; motion seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. Motion carried.

Oconee County School District Update:

Chairman Field introduced Dr. Michael Thorsland, he provided an update on the start of the 2013-2014 school year and informed the Commission on the progress of the new Walhalla High School building.

Oconee County Update:

Mr. Scott Moulder provided a quick synopsis of county issues that included a sewer update, jail project update, broadband overview and a summary for the plans on the Rail Site. Councilor Corbeil added the formation of two new committees, the first is the Capital Sales Tax and the second is the Transportation.

Oconee Alliance Update:

No Update.

TCEDC Update:

Commissioner Eldridge provided an update on the new entrepreneurial focus in partnership with TCTC and potential plans for a new office at the Seneca Commerce Center. He also noted the organization pursuing two potential grant sources.

OCEDC Update:

Mr. Richard Blackwell, executive director, thanked the commission for its patience and support as the county's economic development strategy continues to evolve. He then provided an update concerning recent developments involving industrial park developments, marketing spotlights, site certification for GCCP, retention meetings and upcoming trips on the business recruitment front. He also reviewed economic development activity report and in closing noted the upcoming AOP Showcase.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Commissioner Blair invited everyone to attend the 'Steak in Oconee' dinner September 30th, tickets for Commission members will provided by OCEDC.

Adjournment:

Chairman Field moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Dickson. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.