

**Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
November 16 – Regular Meeting – 3:00 pm
Technical College of the Lowcountry, New River Campus
100 Community College Drive, Bluffton, SC**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alsko, Arnette, Braun, Feaster, Sulka, Shelton, Sisino, Williams
Absent: Azallion-Kenny, Dallas, Gough, Perry, Rodriguez, Sulka, McElynn
Staff: O’Toole, Stone
Guests: Brown, Fragale, Forster

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Public Comment: Joe Fragale inquired on the status of Jasper Ocean Terminal and the US 278 project.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve September 21st, Braun moved; Arnette seconded; Sulka abstained; approved unanimously.

Shelton reviewed BCEDC’s 2022-2023 operating budget. The BCEDC is at 13% of total budget. The BCEDC has \$703,000 in cash available. \$115,000 in grants to companies - \$50,000 of which is in a grant to project Green.

O’Toole requested that the board and each municipality look at what they would like to see from the BCEDC. Feaster recommended that the BCEDC schedule meetings to discuss with leadership and the mayor from each municipality.

O’Toole provided an update on the BCEDC’s site and job fund. The BCEDC has funds designated towards due diligence for the Yemassee Commerce project. The BCEDC also has funds designated towards grants for Project Laundry and Project Crab. The due diligence and project laundry funds are expected to be paid out in the new year.

O’Toole provided an update on the BCEDC’s product plan. The BCEDC is currently working with the County, GEL Engineering, and legal counsel on obtaining a draft of a voluntary cleanup contract for the Lobeco chemical site. The BCEDC briefed the County on the concept for the Yemassee Site in partnership with environmental partners. The BCEDC also recently toured the Mcleoud site with the land owner and had initial meetings with the County and the City of Beaufort. The BCEDC is also working with Councilman Glover on the corners project on St. Helena Island.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve the BCEDC to put out a general request for qualifications for engineering services for a 2-year period, Sulka moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve the BCEDC to put out a request for qualifications for accounting and bookkeeping for a 3-year period, Arnette moved; Shelton seconded; approved unanimously.

Fleming provided an update on SCA. SCA hosted a meeting on power infrastructure in conjunction with the utility providers, State legislators, and various stakeholders. SCA is supporting BCEDC in the Yemassee Commerce project.

O'Toole provided an update on the Converge Economic Summit. The BCEDC will host Converge on January 19th and are in the midst of marketing the event. O'Toole also provided an update on the open Marketing and Investor Relations position. The BCEDC has hired Kelli Brunson for the position and will begin orienting Kelli the week of 11/20.

Shelton inquired about site selection criteria for the municipalities. Fleming and O'Toole provided context around the site selection process. The BCEDC and SCA have several sites that have participated in the SCDOC Palmetto Sites program – the Beaufort Commerce Park and the Yemassee Commerce Site being two of them. O'Toole stated that the BCEDC often is working with small to mid sized companies. These companies often have untraditional site selection criteria and decide to locate in Beaufort County due to a connection or love for the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.