



MINUTES

Hardee County Economic Development Council Hardee County Industrial Development Authority

Commission Chambers 412 W. Orange, Room 102, Wauchula, FL 33873 Regular Meeting

8/08/2017 8:30 AM

BOARD MEMBERS

Vanessa Hernandez, Chairwoman | Gene Davis, Vice-Chairman | Monica Reas | Courtney Green | Dorothy Conerly | Lory Durrance | Calli Ward | Tommy Watkins | Bill Lambert

1. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Vanessa Hernandez	Chairwoman	Present	
Gene Davis	Vice-Chairman	Absent	
Monica Reas	Board Member	Absent	
Courtney Green	Board Member	Present	
Dorothy Conerly	Board Member	Absent	
Lory Durrance	Board Member	Present	
Calli S Ward	Board Member	Present	
Tommy Watkins	Board Member	Present	
Bill Lambert	Economic Development Director	Present	
Sarah W Pelham	Economic Development Corrdinator	Present	
Kristi Schierling	Economic Development Office Manager	Present	

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 2.1. Motion to approve agenda with the change

Director Lambert asked that the financials be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tommy Watkins, Board Member
SECONDER:	Lory Durrance, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Green, Durrance, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Davis, Reas, Conerly

3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3.1. July 2017 EDC/IDA Minutes

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
SECONDER:	Tommy Watkins, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Green, Durrance, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Davis, Reas, Conerly

4. Agenda Items

Item 4.1. DRAFT EDC Budget FY 2017-2018

Charlie Cox let the board know that there were no changes to the DRAFT EDC budget at this time.

Item 4.2. DRAFT IDA Budget FY 2017-2018

Charlie Cox reviewed the DRAFT IDA budget. There has been one addition made. In the general fund, \$100,000 has been budgeted for operating expenses for the old hospital building. We will adopt this budget by resolution at next month's meeting.

5. Project Updates/Chair Updates

Director Lambert would like to have a discussion forum today. He wanted to discuss infrastructure needs and how it relates to economic development, spec buildings and buildings that we are very interested in, Commerce Park property, alternative crops to citrus and aquaculture.

Chair Hernandez said that we do not have many shovel ready sites other than the Commerce Park. We have no building inventory.

Director Lambert explained why we do spec buildings. We do not have available buildings ready to be moved in and this does not make us competitive.

Audience members came to the podium to speak and give their feedback on economic development. Lex Albritton made many comments. One was about the water situation in Magnolia Manor and that it is a concern and should be addressed in the future. He also said that we have been successful with spec buildings and they are worth the risk. Others that spoke, spoke about the housing issues that we have for the medium income households. The IDA and CRA have partnered together to help with this issue. Someone said that the K-12 education system needs to be involved in this process too. Most community members do not understand the issues at hand and what we are doing. The entire community needs to come together to fix the problems we are facing. Janet Gilliard spoke about the County's SHIP program related to housing. One audience member said that the 17 corridor is the face of our community and there are many deteriorated and dilapidated buildings and wherever we have the opportunity to get a-hold of them, we should to rehab them.

6. Financial Report

Item 6.1. June 2017 EDC/IDA Financials

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Calli S Ward, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Green, Durrance, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Davis, Reas, Conerly

Item 6.2. July 2017 EDC/IDA Financials

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Calli S Ward, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Hernandez, Green, Durrance, Ward, Watkins
ABSENT:	Davis, Reas, Conerly

7. Announcements/Other Business/Public Comments

8. Adjournment