



HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes

**Hardee County Economic Development Council
Hardee County Industrial Development Authority**

Regular Meeting

December 14, 2021 at 8:30 AM

**Commission Chambers
412 W. Orange Street, Room 102, Wauchula, FL 33873**

Board Members

Denise Grimsley, Chairman
Tommy Watkins, Vice-Chairman
Courtney Green
Calli Ward
Gene Davis
Lee Mikell
Barney Cherry



HARDEE COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Denise Grimsley	Chairman	Present	
Tommy Watkins	Vice-Chairman	Present	
Courtney Green	Board Member	Present	
Calli Ward	Board Member	Absent	
Gene Davis	Board Member	Present	
Lee Mikell	Board Member	Present	
Barney Cherry	Board Member	Present	

Visiting: Michael Garcia, Bruce Stayer, Sherri Albritton, Charlie Cox, County Commissioner Noey Flores, County Manager Lawrence McNaul, County Attorney Sarah Johnston, Dr. Kevin Folta and Michael Kelly.
Staff: Bill Lambert, Justin Smith, Sarah Pelham, Krystin Chapman, and Kristi Schierling.
EDC/IDA Attorney: Shannon Nash

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Mikell, Board Member
SECONDER:	Barney Cherry, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Chairman Grimsley** -November 2021 EDC/IDA Minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Gene Davis, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

4. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Dr. Kevin Folta** -University of Florida Olive Cultivar Discussion and Presentation

Dr. Kevin Folta was before the board today to provide an update on the work he has been performing. During this time we have been trying to work on a contract with UF that included royalties. We have been unable to reach an acceptable agreement at this time. Dr. Folta needs another year of research. He has been paying for everything out of his reserves and his own personal funds. He is unable to continue paying for this himself and would like to get reimbursement for his research scientist salary which is \$58,629. We did agree to fund up to \$250,000 for his research subject to some type of royalty agreement. Director Lambert recommended that the research continue. The board said that he should be reimbursed for his costs. Staff will gather more information and come back next month with a recommendation.

2. **Krystin Chapman** -Discussion of Marketing RFP

Krystin Chapman said that 3 proposals were received. We have worked with all 3 previously in some form. The RFP process was started back in July. Since the time of the RFP being issued, our focus has shifted from what was in the RFP. We are still working on our marketing efforts. Krystin Chapman is working with all of the marketing arms of Hardee County. Krystin Chapman would like to not pursue anything with the 3 proposals that we received. Tommy Watkins suggested having a meeting to discuss our strategy and what direction we should head. Director Lambert clarified some of the information given. He believes we should pause and have the company that spoke at the Rural Summit come and speak to us and the BOCC so we can have a comprehensive look at Hardee County and where we want to go. What are we marketing and to who? Chairman Grimsley suggested having staff come back to the next meeting with a comprehensive presentation based on the conversations that Krystin Chapman has had with the board members.

Lee Mikell made a motion and was seconded by Courtney Green to accept staff's recommendation to not move forward with the RFP at this time given the change of focus.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Mikell, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

3. **Shannon Nash** -Carlton Street- Right of Way Deed to the City of Wauchula and Resolution 2021-11

Shannon Nash reviewed the documents with the board. The legal description is being finalized. This will be the deed that the IDA gives to the City of Wauchula. The resolution authorizes the conveyance of the road, the Chair to sign, and a ribbon cutting that will be planned very soon. The road is completed and ready to be opened.

Barney Cherry made a motion and was seconded by Gene Davis to approve the Right of Way deed to the City of Wauchula and adopting Resolution 2021-11 authorizing the conveyance of the completed road known as the Carlton Street Extension to the City of Wauchula.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barney Cherry, Board Member
SECONDER:	Gene Davis, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

5. UPDATES

No updates for this month's meeting.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. **Kristi Schierling** -November 2021 EDC/IDA Financials

Lee Mikell made a motion and was seconded by Barney Cherry to approve the EDC/IDA financials.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Mikell, Board Member
SECONDER:	Barney Cherry, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

2. **Charlie Cox** -Special Revenue Fund Budget Amendments for FYE 2022

Lee Mikell made a motion and was seconded by Courtney Green to adopt that budget amendments for FYE 2022 that were approved at last month's meeting.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Mikell, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

3. **Charlie Cox** -Ona Mine Budget Amendments for FYE 2022- Infrastructure Fund

Barney Cherry made a motion and was seconded by Courtney Green to adopt the budget amendments for the Infrastructure Fund for FYE 2022 that were approved at last month's meeting.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barney Cherry, Board Member
SECONDER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

4. **Chairman Grimsley** -Resolution 2022-02- Ona Mine Infrastructure Fund FYE 2022

Courtney Green made a motion and was seconded by Lee Mikell to adopt Resolution 2022-02.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Courtney Green, Board Member
SECONDER:	Lee Mikell, Board Member
AYES:	Grimsley, Watkins, Green, Davis, Mikell, Cherry
ABSENT:	Ward

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Commerce Park Ribbon Cutting

Chairman Grimsley reminded everyone that the ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10am.

8. ADJOURNMENT