



**HARDEE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

## **MINUTES**

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

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**Regular Meeting**

**June 8, 2023, at 11:00 AM**

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

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### **Board Members**

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Lee Mikell, Chairman  
Barney Cherry, Vice-Chairman  
Gene Davis  
Callie Ward  
Courtney Green

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**HARDEE COUNTY**  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

**Visiting:** Bruce Stayer, County Commissioner Renee Wyatt, County Manager Terry Atchley, County Commissioner Russ Melendy, and Michael Kelly.

**Staff:** Denise Grimsley, Sarah Evers, Justin Smith, Krystin Chapman, and Kristi Schierling

**EDC/IDA Attorney:** Shannon Nash

**Chairman Mikell called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.**

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion by Board Member Callie Ward and second by Board Member Gene Davis to approve as presented.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Ward, and Green**

**Nays- None**

**Absent- Cherry**

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 2023 EDC/IDA Minutes

**Motion by Board Member Gene Davis and second by Board Member Courtney Green to approve the May 2023 EDC/IDA minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Ward, and Green**

**Nays – None**

**Absent- Cherry**

## 4. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Modification #1 to the Utilities Feasibility Study EDA Grant:**

Sarah Evers explained the modification. The EDA is extending the grant award date to September 30, 2023. The EDA board has approved the extension and modification.

**Motion by Board Member Callie Ward and second by Board Member Courtney Green to approve Modification #1 to the Utilities Feasibility Study EDA Grant.**

**Motion carried**

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**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Green, Ward**

**Nays – None**

**Absent- Cherry**

**2. Ratify the Chair's Execution of the First Amendment to the Commercial Sale/Purchase Contract for 943 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue:**

Justin Smith explained to the Board that during title work, it was discovered that the legal description was incorrect. This amendment corrects the legal description.

**Motion by Board Member Calli Ward and second by Board Member Gene Davis to approve the ratification of the First Amendment to the Chair's execution of the commercial sale/purchase contract for 943 S. 6th Avenue.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Ward, Green**

**Nays – None**

**Absent- Cherry**

**3. Selection of Firm for Marketing Services:**

Krystin Chapman showed the board the dashboard for our new website. It went live last night. We are in the beta launch currently. This dashboard shows community metrics from VPK readiness rates to the ALICE rate. Hardee County metrics compared to the State of Florida. We published an RFP and received two responses. One response met all the qualifications of the RFP and we would like to enter into negotiations with them.

**Motion by Board Member Calli Ward and second by Board Member Courtney Green to allow staff to enter negotiations with the selected firm.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Ward, Green**

**Nays – None**

**Absent- Cherry**

**4. Purchase Land Contract for Hwy 17 (Sonni Property)**

Denise Grimsley explained that this is a 17-acre piece and the desire is to utilize the property to rebuild the sheriff's office. It will also co-locate the crisis stabilization unit. This will create 50+ jobs. County Manager Atchley informed the board the County has a pending appropriation to start the process of building a new administration building. The first phase is land acquisition, design, and engineering. This will be a 3-5 year project.

Justin Smith explained the details of the contract. The acreage is 17.4 acres, a 6-month inspection period and the purchase price is \$425,000.

**Motion by Board Member Gene Davis and second by Board Member Calli Ward to approve the purchase land contract for Hwy 17 (Sonni Property) and authorize the Chair to sign.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes- Mikell, Davis, Ward, Green**

**Nays- None**

**Absent- Cherry**

## **5. EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Justin Smith provided an update on broadband. Hardee County received \$ 7.1 million in grants for fiber infrastructure. These awards will go to the internet service providers that applied. For Hardee County that was Rapid Systems and Charter Communications.

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **1. May 2023 EDC/IDA Financials:**

**Motion by Board Member Calli Ward and second by Board Member Courtney Green to approve the May 2023 EDC/IDA Financials as presented.**

**Motion carried**

**Ayes – Mikell, Davis, Ward, Green**

**Nays – None**

**Absent- Cherry**

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**