



HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting

October 12, 2023, at 8:30 AM

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

Board Members

Lee Mikell, Chairman
Barney Cherry, Vice-Chairman
Gene Davis
Calli Ward
Courtney Green
Chris Idsardi
John Gill



HARDEE COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Visiting: Bruce Stayer, Stacey Dadd, Ginger Delegal, County Manager Terry Atchley, County Commissioner Renee Wyatt, County Commissioner Noey Flores, and Michael Kelly.

Staff: Denise Grimsley, Justin Smith, and Kristi Schierling

EDC/IDA Attorney: Shannon Nash

Chairman Mikell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Gene Davis and second by Board Member Courtney Green to approve as presented.

Motion carried

Ayes – Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Ward

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 2023 EDC/IDA Minutes

Motion by Board Member Courtney Green and second by Board Member Barney Cherry to approve the August 2023 EDC/IDA minutes as presented.

Motion carried

Ayes – Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays – None

Absent- Ward

4. BOARD EDUCATION

1. Ginger Delegal- Sunshine Law

Ginger Delegal, Executive Director of the Florida Association of Counties, was here before the board today to give a presentation of the sunshine, open meetings, and public records law.

2. Kristi Schierling-Executive Report

Kristi Schierling started the executive report talking about the Celebrate Community project. This was a Hardee County civic club project that Main Street also participated in. Plants were planted along Main Street and a block of Highway 17 South. Justin Smith acknowledged Denise Grimsley for receiving the City and State Award. She was also the keynote speaker and recognized for going above and beyond. Justin Smith held an AI workshop this past month at Bertha's Kitchen. It was a great workshop with very informative information. It was facilitated by Keith Coker, President of Orlan Tech, Inc. Casa San Alfonso had their ribbon cutting in Zolfo Springs. Sarah Evers presented at Kiwanis and Justin Smith presented at Rotary in September. Sarah and Krystin Chapman are both at the Food and Manufacturing Trade Show today. Ethics training will be held on November 6th and the board is encouraged to attend.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Shannon Nash- Election of Chair

Attorney Nash opened the floor for nominations of Chair. Gene Davis nominated Lee Mikell for Chair. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Board Member Gene Davis and second by Board Member Barney Cherry to nominate Lee Mikell as Chair.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Ward

2. Shannon Nash- Election of Vice Chair

Attorney Nash opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair. Chris Idsardi nominated Barney Cherry. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Board Member Chris Idsardi and second by Board Member John Gill to nominate Barney Cherry as Vice Chair.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Ward

3. Stacey Dadd- SBDC Presentation

Stacey Dadd is the Associate Director of Florida SBDC. She covers 10 counties of the Tampa Bay Division. Last fiscal year, SBDC provided over half of its consulting hours in Hardee County. SBDC has been involved in different community events over the past year. The client feature was Stream2Sea. The SBDC helped them access \$1.4 million in capital. That resulted in sales of \$2.2 million and the creation of 11 jobs.

4. Justin Smith- Architectural and Engineering Continuing Services Contracts

We received the remaining contracts from the recipient firms that were awarded. Our legal team has approved all of the language in each of the contracts. The contracts presented today are from Hall Darling, Hunter Engineering, George F. Young, Chastain Skillman, and The Lunz Group.

Motion by Board Member Chris Idsardi and second by Board Member Barney Cherry to approve the contracts as presented and authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Ward

5. Justin Smith- Construction Manager Continuing Services Contract

We received the remaining contracts from Halfacre Construction and L. Cobb Construction. Our legal team has approved the language in both of the contracts.

Motion by Board Member Courtney Green and second by Gene Davis to approve the contracts as presented and authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Davis and Gill

6. Shannon Nash- Request for Waiver of Conflict

Attorney Nash explained that her firm also represents Dr. Rejeswari Sonni. We currently have a purchase contract with this party. Out of precaution, it is being asked of us to provide consent and acknowledgment that both parties are being represented by the same firm.

Motion by Board Member Chris Idsardi and second by Board Member John Gill to consent and approve the request for waiver of conflict as it relates to the purchase of real property from Rajeswari Sonni and his property on Hwy 17 N. and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill

Nays- None

Absent- Ward

7. Justin Smith- Resolution 2023-08 Authorizing the Closing of Real Property Located at 0 Hwy 17 N (Sonni Property)

Justin Smith explained that this resolution authorizes us to close on the property.

Motion by Board Member John Gill and second by Barney Cherry to adopt Resolution 2023-08 authorizing the purchase of real property located at 0 Hwy 17 N, Wauchula, Hardee County, Florida, (Parcel ID 33-33-25-0000-09780-0000), authorizing the transfer of funds, confirming the authority of the Chair or Vice Chair to sign all documents necessary for closing, and providing for an effective date.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill
Nays- None
Absent- Ward

8. Justin Smith- Resolution 2023-09- Authorizing Closing of Real Property Located at 122 W. Main Street, Wauchula (Reif Building)

Justin Smith explained that this resolution was also needed for us to close on the property.

Motion by Board Member Courtney Green and second by Board Member Chris Idsardi to adopt Resolution 2023-09 approving and authorizing the execution of a sale/purchase contract for the purchase of real property located at 122 W. Main Street, Wauchula, Hardee County, Florida, and confirming the authority of the Chair or Vice Chair to sign all necessary documents for closing, authorizing the transfer of funds, and providing for an effective date.

Motion carried.

Ayes- Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill
Nays- None
Absent- Ward

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. September 2023 EDC/IDA Financials:

Motion by Board Member Barney Cherry and second by Board Member Chris Idsardi to approve the September 2023 EDC/IDA Financials as presented.

Motion carried.

Ayes – Mikell, Cherry, Davis, Green, Idsardi, and Gill
Nays – None
Absent- Ward

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT