

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2024

Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Marty Crawford
Robert Allen
Robert Trentman
Matt Smallheer
Rick Vernier

Members Excused:

Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown
Landyn Smallheer

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Chairman Sharkey asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the March 13, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the March 13, 2024, Committee minutes. Mr. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield provided an update for the Kaskaskia Port District fuel pipeline project. He stated that the Port District did receive a grant for a feasibility study. The pipeline will run from Fayetteville to MidAmerica and then on to SAFB. A committee was formed to review different companies to perform the study and Gonzalez Company was awarded the contract.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that he had been in Washington D.C. this week for the Association of Defense Communities National Summit. The Summit meetings focused on quality-of-life issues for military

families. Mr. Stubblefield expressed his concern and stated it has become a critical issue for the Department of Defense.

Mr. Stubblefield also stated he attended the Southwest Regional Planning event that was held in conjunction with SIUE. There were discussions to develop plans for the needs of the region.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that SAFB received a small REPI grant to remove the trees blocking the waterways.

Mr. Stubblefield stated there remains a high interest in the County and has received several inquiries about new businesses moving or expanding into the area.

Mr. Sharkey stated that several people had been to the Tyson Plant and asked if it is now fully operational. Mr. Stubblefield replied that Tyson is up and running.

Mr. Crawford asked if any funds were being spent on flooding issues occurring above the hill. Mr. Stubblefield stated that the flooding issues have been a complicated process. He stated that this is a regional problem, and that the system must be fixed from the top down. A great deal of time has been spent on this issue.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. James was unable to attend due to a conflict.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Huth was unable to attend due to a conflict.

Other Comments:

Mr. Vernier inquired if Boeing and Gulfstream have opened an additional building at the CAVE. Mr. Stubblefield stated that the CAVE has partnered with Gulfstream to expand the back end of the CAVE for training in repairing aircraft engines.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.