

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes October 9, 2024

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Rick Vernier
Robert Trentman

Members Excused:

Marty Crawford
Robert Allen
Matt Smallheer

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

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 September 11, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the September 11, 2024, Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated that he met with the Southwestern Illinois Leadership Council regarding regional branding. The Leadership Council has received some Appropriation Funding that will run through the Intergovernmental Grants Department.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery applications are out and due back by October 16, 2024. He is expecting numerous applications to be returned that will be requesting more funding than is available.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that there continues to be a considerable amount of interest in the area in terms of relocation and expansion. He is currently working on several significant projects.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that he and Kimberly Huth will be attending the Association of Defense Community Installation Innovation forum in San Antonio, TX on 10/28/2024-10/30/2024.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James stated that ground has been broken for the Federal Inspection Station. The Federal Inspection Station will be replacing the General Aviation Facility which will allow them to bring in air carriers for international traffic. The projection is early 2026.

Mr. James stated that he attended an Allegiant conference last week. He also stated that he will be going to Green Bay at the end of the month for a North American Roots Conference. This will be an opportunity to inform other airlines of MidAmerica's capabilities and what they have to offer.

Mr. Stubblefield asked if Allegiant is still interested in making MidAmerica a HUB. Mr. James responded that the favorability is positive. Mr. Sharkey asked where their HUBs are currently located. Mr. James responded that they have 23 base locations spread out all over.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth was not in attendance due to a conflict.

Mr. Dinges made a motion to approve all the Director's reports and Mr. Vernier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments:

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:21 p.m.