

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Rick Vernier
Marty Crawford
Robert Allen
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Robert Trentman

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

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

Approval of the August 14, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Assistant Chairman Dinges called for action on the August 14, 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. Rick Stubblefield stated Tyson has added 400 new jobs since their expansion. They continue to hold hiring events and are still in need of employees. All their new lines are not currently up and running so there will be an ongoing need.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that they are working with the REPI task force to see if they can offer any assistance to flood remediation efforts on the base through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding the county received. Those applications are out and are due back by October 16th. Applications were sent out to those communities that qualified for BRIC which included Belleville,

Brooklyn, Cahokia Heights, Caseyville, Dupo, East Carondelet, East St. Louis, Fairview Heights, O'fallon, Shiloh, and Swansea. The application along with the CDBG-DR Action Plan and Policies and Procedures associated with this grant are on the County website. All communities are welcome to apply if they have a project that can be tied directly to the July 2022 flooding. They continue to work with the Corps of Engineers and various partners to answer questions and provide technical assistance. They continue to meet with HUD and keep them updated. The current funding is limited to the flooding concerns of July 2022. HUD and FEMA are also asking for time to discuss flood plain management and how to think about development in the context of the new flood plain maps.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that World Wide Technology Raceway announced that the Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR race has been elevated to a playoff race. The race will be moved to September of next year. NASCAR noted that WWTR's ability to host sell out crowds and infrastructure improvements were key in their decision.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that he attended a Joint Use meeting, last week, to discuss flooding, airport infrastructure and security.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James was not in attendance due to a conflict.

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

Other Comments:

Mr. Dinges asked about the redevelopment of the TIF project on West Main Street discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Stubblefield responded that there is not a particular business, but they are looking into revitalizing the area. The city is wanting to move forward and there is a public hearing in October.

Adjournment:

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