



GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July, 19 2022, @ 6:30 p.m.

this meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference

CALL TO ORDER

- A meeting of the Economic Development Authority Board of Directors was held via Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Call to order at 6:30 pm with Mr. James Tsikerdanos, Chairman, presiding.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- Members in Attendance: Paul Reickart, Michael Payne, Whitt Ledford, Matt Sweetanos, James Tsikerdanos, Supervisor Heflin and Mike Traber
- Members Absent: Rachel Clancy, Corey Jacober
- Non-Members in Attendance: Keith Bourne, Emily Byers

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Minutes from July 19, 2022, were distributed electronically to all board members. Mr. Sweetanos moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIALS

- There were no P & L and Balance sheets for EDA and Tourism- Next meeting review

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM DIRECTOR

- Mr. Tsikerdanos provided the following updates:
 - The glamping project will move forward.
 - Meat processing was approved 5-0 by the Board of Supervisors.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Mr. Tsikerdanos asked for comments from the public.
 - There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

- Value Added Product Development-Draft Forgivable Loan Review
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos reviewed the forgivable loan purpose and terms. The purpose of the forgivable loan is to encourage value added product creation for Greene's rural community. A small loan offered to help offset the cost of canning, sealing, or other equipment. Mr. Tsikerdanos asked "is there anything the money cannot be used for?" Discussion ensued about the use of the money. It was concluded that the proposal for the program would include retail product creation, equipment, and experiential agritourism.
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos asked for suggestion on marketing on the program. Conversation ensued about extra marketing beyond the Tourism Facebook page. Examples being Farmers Market, Extension Office, Newspaper and Facebook.

- The consensus agreed that a written overview of the project or a presentation would be needed for the grant application process.
- Mr. Tsikerdanos opened up the discussion about the terms of forgivable loan. Discussion ensued about the loan amount, should the loan be small to serve many or larger and grant fewer? The consensus agreed that there should be a cap on the amount of the forgivable loan. It was agreed that there should be further discussion on the cap would be discussed in the September meeting.
- Terms agreed upon? The loan can be forgiven by doing what? Consensus agreement of the group was that there should be further discussion on the forgivable aspect of the loan in September's meeting.
- The commercial kitchen
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos discussed the implementation of a feasibility study focused on the need for a commercial kitchen in Greene County. Mr. Tsikerdanos also discussed the possibility of a combined MOU with a local community kitchen. Mr. Tsikerdanos will send the EDA members a copy of the Feasibility Study document to facilitate discussion in the upcoming September meeting.
- The Economic Development Fall Forum
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos suggested that the November 15th meeting could be at Town Hall. The consensus agreed to the November Meeting at Town Hall and it would be open for public comment and discussion. Topics to include at the meeting include;
 - How could we support a community food co-op?
 - The clarification of the EDAs role and responsibility in economic development within the community.
 - The possibility of Daniel Laro giving a presentation on bond funding to increase the economic stream for future endeavors.
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos discussed the possible future purchase of existing business property or land for the creation of a business park to attract businesses to the area.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Tsikerdanos discussed Network2Work. PVCC program that helps to remove barriers that keep people from working. The program is at no cost to the potential employee. Mr. Tsikerdanos suggested that we discuss more in a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next regular meeting of the EDA will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Mr. Tsikerdanos asked for a motion to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Tsikerdanos asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Traber asked that he be able to give two public service announcements. Mr. Traber asked that all new members submit an EDA profile. Second, check emails and spam folder for emails from business owners. Mr. Tsikerdanos asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting Whit Ledford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.