

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NOTES FROM DECEMBER 09, 2024, MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Alvin Foster at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alvin Foster, Kamara Graves, Shirley Wilson, Tony Smith, Elin Claggett, Travis Hoesli, Amanda Hodges, Shirley Cadmus

Zoom:

Members Absent: Commissioner Jackie Jeffries, Emily Buchanan, Ruby Graves, Holt Finch, Renee Paschal, Jason Watlington, Tommy Goddard, Dr. Senegal

Welcome: Alvin Foster

Roll Call: Shirley Wilson technically we do not have a quorum to vote on or approve the minutes from the last meeting or agenda for this meeting. We have four out of nine. We will run down through our agenda for information purposes only. These minutes and November's minutes will be presented for approval in our January 2025 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2024(N/A)

Approval on Agenda for December 09, 2024 (N/A).

Mr. Alvin Foster asked for updates.

Old Business:

EDC Update-N/A



PCC: Dr. Senegal/Emily Buchanan N/A

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: N/A

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE: Alvin Foster/Kamara

✦ Tree Lighting went well.

✦ We will address and do something different with getting vendors here for next year. We will bring in house. We have four and they were happy with the participation.

AG UPDATE: TRAVIS HOESLI:

✦ After the first of the year, we will have 150 AG Producers back for the Annual Training

✦ We have two applications in our office for Ag Venture to get their applications finalized.

✦ State level Grant for AG business. Applications are lower than they have been.

✦ Finishing the harvest of Soybeans

✦ Sent out insurance letters to and completed a lot of verifications.

✦ One is Flower Production, and the second one is Vegetable Production.

TOWN OF MILTON: Shirley Wilson:

✦ Christmas in Milton was a success.

✦ The Trail will be lit up Friday and Saturday evenings in December from 5:00 to 8:00

✦ Follow-up Round Table session with several agencies. Topic: Valuable Utilities Reserve Grant

✦ Commissioner Danny Cash will be sworn in tomorrow at our Town meeting. He will be filling the position of late Steven Lattime.

✦ Shirley Cadmus states the merchants and business owners are sponsoring festivities for the children. The children were so excited about the events and truly responded well. They overwhelmed me (Shirley Cadmus) with making decorations.

TOURISM: Amanda Hodges

✦ Tourism is on the roll.

✦ Working hard to fulfill our mission.

✦ Have Grants that continue to come in. We built an addition onto a building.

✦ Helped with trials.

✦ Helped with lights in Milton.

✦ Market Events for certain businesses and groups

✦ Inventory of things that they can use down the road.

✦ Helped Businesses get Signage.

- + Grant for Camp Springs Bluegrass Park
- + Keep things going on the website.
- + Tourism related, rural county.
- + Cameo on the video
- + Question: Who represents the Chamber of Commerce
- + Mrs. Barnett stated we can reach out to the vice chair for answers.

CCS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

Mr. Foster asked for other information for the good of the group.

OTHER INFORMATION: Elin Claggett stated.

*** 11/18/2024 sale of 12.5 acres to Project Acre for \$100,000**

*** Two new commissioners that collaborated with Yanceyville Industrial Park construction in the 1990s at no cost to taxpayers. Perhaps these efforts can be duplicated in Pelham as shell buildings have been proposed twice, albeit with a \$500,000 price tag requested (this council in 11/2022 and Economic Development budget in 5/2024).**

*** The Economic Developer position is on hold with consideration to combine with the future County Manager's role.**

*** Economic development websites are essentially unchanged for 5 years and Co-Square vision has diminished with expansion of broadband in the county. The anchor tenant, Mesur.io never showed up except for a sign on the door. Surrounding counties focus on site plans, workforce, available loans, technical assistance, training resources, DOT plans and basic infrastructure.**

*** As noted by the International Economic Development council in Feb. 2022, tourism, green space, trail systems, game lands, Farmer's Market, NC Extension & CEAD's focus on agri-business appear to offer the economic greatest potential moving forward into 2025.**

Adjourn: Alvin Foster adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Wilson, Secretary