

CASWELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

March 10, 2025

1:00 P.M.

**Meeting will resume at the Municipal Building**

Call to Order	Alvin Foster
Welcome	Alvin Foster
Roll Call	Shirley Wilson
Approval of Minutes for February 10, 2025	Alvin Foster
Review of Agenda March 10, 2025	Alvin Foster
Old Business	Alvin Foster
EDC Update:	
County Manager	Renee Paschal
Deputy County Manager	Melissa Williamson
PCC	Dr. Senegal
CCCCOC	Hosanna Pennell
Town of Yanceyville	Alvin Foster
Ag. Update	Travis Hoesli
Town of Milton	Shirley Wilson
Tourism	Amanda Hodges
Caswell County Schools	Mrs. J. Gwynn Superintendent (Designated Staff Member)
Decision of CO-Square	David Useche Alvin Foster
New Business	Alvin Foster
Other Information	<b>Open to All</b>
Adjourn	

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### February 10, 2025 Meeting

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

**Members Present:** Alvin Foster, Kamara Graves, Shirley Wilson, Emily Buchanan, Shirley Cadmus, Elin Claggett, Tommy Goddard, Ruby, Graves, Commissioner Jackie Jeffries, Renee Paschal, Dr. Senegal, Jason Watlington, Rebecca Page,

**Zoom:**

**Members Absent:** Amanda Hodges, Hosanna Pennell, Finch Holt, Travis Hoesli,

**Welcome:** Alvin Foster

Before calling for updates Mr. A. Foster expressed gratitude to Dr. Senegal for being a great asset to Caswell County. Your contributions here will be everlasting to Caswell and Person County.

**Dr. Senegal** elaborated on her new position in Charlotte North Carolina which brings her closer to her parents.

**Roll Call:** Shirley Wilson.

**Approval of Minutes: Correction under Economic Development January 13, 2025 insert Cherokee Tobacco.**

Dr. Elin Claggett **motioned to approve the January minutes with the correction. Shirley Cadmus seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Reviewed Agenda for February 10, 2025**

**Mr. Alvin Foster:**

**Old Business:**

#### **EDC Update: Renee Paschal**

- ✚ Sent demographics and other information through email this morning that was presented to the Board of Commissioners at the Planning and Budget Retreat
- ✚ The Board Prioritized Economic Development
- ✚ A copy of their goals was sent to each EDC Board member.
- ✚ Challenges in the county: The County population is aging, with fewer work force aged adults that live in the county. Our children graduate from High School and leave the county. adults and high residential tax burden.
- ✚ Ten percent of our residents work in the county, the rest work outside the county.
- ✚ We have the highest percentage of residential tax space in the state of North Carolina. This means our residences are bearing (assuming)the burden of the cost of government to a greater degree than they do in other countries have higher industrial and commercial tax spaces.
- ✚ Our precapitalist income remains well below the state average. The commissioners discussed the data and decided on some short-term priorities to create economic development strategies seeking assistance from the Department of Commerce
- ✚ Update the county's Land Use Plan and develop a Water and Sewer Plan that aligns with the Economic Development strategy and the Land Use Plan.
- ✚ Long-Term Priorities: include developing large tracks of land for economic development and constructing shell building. We already have a couple of those that look at expansion and they consider construction of a shell building through a private public partnership. This was done in the early nineties.
- ✚ Made connections with EDPNC and Piedmont Electric
- ✚ Commissioners discussed and will combine the Economic Developers position with the manager attracting a more qualified person with the combination of the hire a manager who has a lot of experience in Economic Development. This way they can attract a more qualified person with the combination of salaries.

#### **County Managers Report: Renee Paschal**

- ✚ N/A

**PCC: Dr. Senegal/Emily Buchanan**

- ✦ Dr. Senegal stated this has been an amazing run. Seven years, eight months, three weeks and one day.
- ✦ A report is done to measure the health of community colleges across the state. The first measure is what the enrollments look like? What are the enrollment trends? As of today, we have had the best enrollment in over ten years. Not just general enrollment but we are getting more adults to come back. The second measure of a college's health is around county level support. Thanks to the support of the commissioners, they have shown astounding support for community college. As a result, we have been able to bring a nursing program based here in Caswell County.
- ✦ ATN program with 100% pass rate.
- ✦ Laid groundwork for the CEAD project that is already having multiplier effects. We raised over \$10.5 million for Phase One, hoping by making some investments for part of industrial Park it would start to generate interest. It did, now we have Cherokee Tobacco that will be housed in the second parcel. The third measure of a college's health is what are your dual enrollment numbers? What do they look like? When we started three years ago, we had our first completer because we were in single digits. Last year double digits for completion, and this year we are on track to continuing to have even higher numbers of students who not only complete their high school diploma but also complete their Associate Degree. The fourth measure is around the state budget. Budget was around fourteen million when I first arrived here. Our overall State Budget today is \$41million. The fifth measure is centered around your philanthropic and grant support. Last quarter of 2024, our foundation brought in 1.2 million of private money.
- ✦ Dr. Senegal stated I am leaving you in excellent hands.
- ✦ Emily stated the CEAD project is continuing to move forward.
- ✦ Dr. Senegal described her new position.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: N/A**

**TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE: Alvin Foster/Kamara**

- ✦ We have had a good run here with the water sewer system even though we have had numerous main breaks that have caused some issues at times.
- ✦ New Bar Screen will be installed at the sewer plant soon (explained)
- ✦ Continuing to chase funding
- ✦ December, we received a state Grant in the amount of \$250,000 to go towards water and sewer upgrades.
- ✦ Town has decided to start upgrading meters here in town. Larger compound meters first such as prison meters, and schools. \$250,000.00 will not correct all of our problems but it is a start. Mr. Foster explained.
- ✦ Mrs. Claggett asked a question concerning the status of the land acquired for the extension of the runway. Mr. Foster replied, the helipad Has been completed. Extending the runway is contingent of funds that the town does not have at this time. Requiring the land for the extension cannot happen until the funds are there, then the extension can be completed. (Mr. Foster explained the situation. **Discussion** on what the helipad is used for.

**.AG UPDATE: TRAVIS OESLI: N/A**

**TOWN OF MILTON: Shirley Wilson:**

- ✦ London's Event Center will be opening soon.
- ✦ OB catering passed the inspection with 100%.
- ✦ Joint Commissioner's Meeting in Milton

**TOURISM: Rebecca Page:**

- ✦ Working with small businesses in Milton and Yanceyville, farms, and others to create short videos To promote the county to visitors. Uplift provided these videos at no charge to the county to be used for marketing.
- ✦ Onsite Tours: Baldwin Orchards
- ✦ Presented Four Video: Rural County Slides, Farmers Lake Hyco Lake and /dan River, Town of Milton, Yanceyville Uplift Video featuring Kamara Barnett
- ✦ On-Site Tours: Explained
- ✦ Camp Springs Campground
- ✦ Annual Website
- ✦ Continue to offer grants promoting farm tours.
- ✦ The Farmers Market will start at the end of April from 4:00 to 6:30 third Thursdays. Need more shoppers.
- ✦ (Grant given) Camp Springs Music and historical foundation to promote Bluegrass Festival this year.
- ✦ (Grant given) Milton Renaissance Foundation for battery packs for lighting for their trail.
- ✦ (Grant given) Animal Park

CCS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

Mr. Foster: Suggestions for our standard agenda explained Roberts Rule of Order

Do we want to change the structure of the agenda?

- ✦ The agenda structure and public participation are up for discussion, with a suggestion to add a public comment section.
- ✦ By-Laws everyone should have already. Mr. Foster elaborated on the importance of EDC.
- ✦ There are two Incentive Policies that each municipality can refer back to.
- ✦ Mr. Foster explained that we have no permanent staff, and all the people serving on this board are volunteers.
- ✦ At the end of the meeting Mr. Foster asks if there are any questions or information for the good of the group. **Discussion**
- ✦ The EDC is focused on maintaining a positive image of the county and addressing any negative issues that may affect economic development.
- ✦ Stay open to the public and allow questions. If you are asked a question and do not feel comfortable answering a particular question. Simply do not answer. Do we want to change the way we allow public participation?
- ✦ Commissioner Jackie Jeffries believes Mr. Foster's meeting structure and conducting the meeting should remain unchanged based on her attendance and knowledge gained.
- ✦ Revisit Shell Buildings: Information was sent to the County Commissioners.
- ✦ EDC is focused on maintaining a positive image of the county and addressing any negative issues that may affect economic development.
- ✦ Should we send a letter reiterating our support for the Shell Spec building program? **Discussion** It was motioned and seconded to send a letter to the Commissioners reiterating our support of the Shell Spec Building Program. All were in favor.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Read over the North Carolina General Statute NCGS 01-58 article two on economic development commissions powers and duties. Let us discuss it and discuss what we can do differently.

What is it as the Economic Development Commission, which could be put in place on how to recruit? What is the vision for going forward? Discussion

Does anyone have anything for the good of the group?

**Adjourn:** Alvin Foster It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

**Minutes submitted by:** Shirley Wilson, Secretary