

CASWELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

April 14, 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
Presentation:	Loren Hill Carolina Core Regional Economic Development Director
Old Business	Alvin Foster
EDC Update	Renee Paschal County Manager
Deputy County Manager	Melissa Williamson
PCC	Kennith Boham Interim President PCC
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) David Useche
Discussion on CO-Square	Alvin Foster
New Business	Alvin Foster
Discussion of NC General stature allowing creation of Economic Development Commissions	
Other Information	Open to All
Adjourn	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 10, 2025, Meeting

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

Members Present: Alvin Foster, Kamara G. Barnett, Shirley Wilson, Shirley Cadmus, Elin Claggett, Tommy Goddard, Ruby, Graves, Travis Hoesli, Commissioner Jackie Jeffries, Dr. Senegal, Jason Watlington, Hosanna Pennell, David Useche

Zoom: Emily Buchanan, Amanda Hodges

Members Absent: Finch Holt, Renee Paschal,

Welcome: Alvin Foster

Mr. Alvin Foster asked if we would remember Finch Holt during his surgery and recovery. Also remember the Commissioner Wrenn's family the funeral was last Friday.

Roll Call: Shirley Wilson.

Approval of Minutes:

motioned to approve the February 10, 2025 minutes as stands. Shirley Cadmus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

















Reviewed Agenda for March 10, 2025

Mr. Alvin Foster:





Old Business:

EDC Update:

-  Economic development updates, concerns about workload, leadership transitions in the Chamber, community events, and the need for marketing and updates in various areas.
-  potential reinvestment of landfill proceeds and grant opportunities.
-  Concerns raised about the workload of one person serving as county manager and handling economic development.
-  Discussion on the possibility of allowing remote voting and updates on PCC's interim president and CEAD project.
-  The Chamber is looking for a new executive director to lead the organization.
-  The Chamber is going through a transitional period and reorganizing to better serve local businesses.
-  The future of the Chamber looks positive, with events like the Hoe Down and festivals contributing to community identity.
-  The farm tour is scheduled for November 8th and a mural event on March 23rd.
-  CO square needs to be marketed effectively and reach out to other co-working spaces for ideas.
-  The economic development website is lacking in information and needs updates.
-  Housing can be used as a part of economic development and attract people to the area.
-  CX cloud is an asset that needs to be made vital to the community.
-  Find a new executive director for the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce.
-  Explore hiring someone for the office space currently used for storage.
-  0:23:14
-  Prepare for an open house and walkthrough of the new project.

County Managers Report: N/A

PCC: Emily Buchanan

-  We welcome Kenneth Boham Interim President PCC
-  The CEAD Project is moving forward.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Hosanna Pennell

Hosanna Pennell introduced herself as the chair of the Board for the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce.

- ✦ We are currently looking for a new executive director.
- ✦ The three big events are The Hoe Down, Fourth of July, Christmas Tree Lighting and the Parade.
- ✦ Focusing on moving the Chamber forward

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE: Alvin Foster/Kamara

- ✦ The Dillard School Project is getting closer.
- ✦ Will start taking applications by the end of the month for leasing the apartments.
- ✦ They finally got some permits that they were lacking from Raleigh to get all the water turned on.
- ✦ They still have a lot of landscaping work to do on the outside.
- ✦ They do plan on having an open house and a walkthrough prior to opening up. I (Alvin Foster) went for a walkthrough a few months ago.
- ✦ Early on in discussions with DEEDS, the auditorium was going to be a space that could be rented by the community.
- ✦ May 02, 2025, First Friday--With food trucks and a band, and of course as normal, there is NO charge to be here. No free food or NO free lunch and nobody.

.AG UPDATE: TRAVIS HOESLI: N/A,

- ✦ Plan to launch the small farms boot camp again and schedule an interest meeting. Include vegetable units.
- ✦ Work on launching a remote work certificate program and helping individuals find remote jobs.
- ✦ Continuing with summer camps and greenhouse development projects
- ✦ Reach out to co-working space and other similar spaces to gather information on their usage and marketing strategies
- ✦ Digital Agent Tyler Cobb works with the state digital team.
- ✦ Strawberries with bacterium issues which will cause a lot of damage.
- ✦ Tobacco contracts out there.
- ✦ Disease in birds and chickens-**Discussion** Hoesli explained.

TOWN OF MILTON: Shirley Wilson:

- ✦ Joint Commissioners Meeting has been changed to March 20, 2025
- ✦ OB Catering Grand Opening March 22, 2025
- ✦ London's Event Center Grand Opening March 29, 2025.

TOURISM: Amanda Hodges

- ✦ Farm tour on Saturday November 08, 2025
- ✦ Videos Rebecca Page shared with EDC will be posted on Caswell County website.
- ✦ TDA continues to receive grant requests.
- ✦ Mural Event March 03, 2025, 2:00-4:00

CCS: David Useche

- ✦ Hosted Mrs. North Carolina last Thursday in the large meeting room at the Central Office
- ✦ The dropout rate has been decreasing. Great job keeping students in school.
- ✦ CTE courses are higher than the state proficiencies.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

Mr. Foster: Co-Square Usage CO-Square needs to be marketed effectively and reach out to other co-working spaces for ideas. Mr. Foster explained the largest handicap in Caswell County Economic Development.

Does anyone have anything for the good of the group?

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. Motion second by Shirley Cadmus

EDITED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ELIN CLAGGETT:

A few edit recommendations:

Last meeting Tony Smith announced he was appointed by Commissioner Yarbrough to represent the County government while Commissioner Holt was unable to attend due to medical reason. I don't see him listed as present at the meeting, nor making this statement.

Interim County Manager, Renee Paschal, was not able to attend due to conflict with other meetings, but did email the EDC Economic Incentive Policies which were available to members the last meeting.

Tony Smith addressed economic incentives including the money from the sale of Pelham Industrial Park land for Cherokee Tobacco processing plant. He stated that source of money for the county, approximately \$100,000, could be used to prepare property to be utilized for construction sites to attract future industry.

Jason Watlington, County Planner, also stated that the Golden Leaf Foundation has a \$50,000 grant that could be utilized for this same purpose of site development such as surveys and infrastructure.

EDC Updates: PCC CEAD (not "seed") project. - this, as well as the Interim PCC President are stated with PCC updates

The Chamber is looking for a new executive director is listed twice under EDC Updates and again under Chamber of Commerce Updates.

EDC Updates: an item that reads "0:23:14"

Agenda for Mtg 4/14/2025: Update - Mr. Lance Stokes will be Interim Superintendent effective April 14, 2025, vs. Mrs. J. Gwynn