

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2014
4:49 p.m.
County Square - Conference Room D**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at County Square and posted on the County's web page for all media and concerned citizens to access and review.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN BOB TAYLOR
VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIS MEADOWS
SID CATES
JOE DILL
XANTHENE NORRIS
JOE BALDWIN

FRED PAYNE
LIZ SEMAN
BUTCH KIRVEN
LYNN BALLARD
JIM BURNS
LOTTIE GIBSON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer
DEAN CAMPBELL, Deputy County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chip Bentley, Director, Planning and Economic Development Services
Appalachian Council of Governments

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Councilor Sid Cates

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 19, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members.

Item (4)

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) UPDATE

Chip Bentley, Appalachian Council of Governments, Planning and Economic Development Services, Director, gave County Council the annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Appalachian Region of South Carolina that was also submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in September 2014. The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments (SCACOG) was a voluntary organization of local governments in the Northwest corner of South Carolina, serving a region which included the counties of Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg. The SCACOG Board of Directors served as the Federal Economic Development District for the region. The Board appointed a CEDS Advisory Committee who helped develop both the 5-year CEDS and the 12-month update being presented. Throughout the collaborative planning process, a robust amount of information was gathered to update CEDS 2013-2017. Some of the information gathered included: varied insights of individuals representing government and business; meetings with local economic and workforce developers from each county in the region in order to obtain ground level perspectives on challenges and opportunities; findings from local, regional and state economic development plans and studies; GIS-based demographic data used to reveal local and regional economic trends. Upon completion, the CEDS Update was presented to the full SCACOG Board/EDD Organization for final critique and feedback. The document was also presented to each individual County Council during their monthly public meetings for additional input and recommendations. Upon completion of these steps, the SCACOG Board formally adopted the 2014 CEDS Update and recommended it for submission to the U.S. EDA. The goals of the CEDS 2013-2017 Strategic Plan were to promote the growing regional industrial clusters and target industries of advanced materials, automotive, biosciences, energy and aerospace. The supportive findings of scientific cluster analysis had revealed five growing, technologically promising industry clusters in the region (advanced materials, automotive, biosciences, energy and aerospace). The Upstate Alliance will be marketing those clusters as target industries for the region on a global level. There were outstanding regional foundations of innovation capacity and institutional partners for each cluster/target industry; in addition to the five region-wide clusters. Individual counties had also analyzed their unique assets in order to form their own additional industry targets. The objectives were to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of the region's advanced materials industrial cluster; to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of the region's automotive industrial cluster; to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of the region's biosciences industrial cluster; to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of the region's energy industrial cluster; to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of the region's aerospace industrial cluster; and to provide technical assistance to capacity-building and recruitment efforts for local target industries which were supported by a community's own unique assets. The strategic projects, programs, and activities

Item (7)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council