

FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Franklinton Town Hall

AGENDA

- I. Welcome – Shane Mitchell
- II. Review/Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2008 Meeting – Shane Mitchell
- III. Legislative Update – Senator Doug Berger/Representative Lucy Allen
- IV. Election of Officers – Brenda Robbins
- V. Economic Development Activity and Existing Industries Update – Richie Duncan
- VI. Update on Redesign for Franklin County Snapshot – Richie Duncan
- VII. Company Visits Update – Mark McArn, Stephen Barrington
- VIII. Triangle North Franklin Update – Don Lancaster
- IX. Shell Building Update – Mike Leonard
- X. Other Business – Shane Mitchell
- XI. Adjourn – Shane Mitchell

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Minutes

The Franklin County Economic Development Commission was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Shane Mitchell on June 11, 2008 at the Franklinton Town Hall.

In attendance were Chairman Shane Mitchell, Commissioners: Lyn Buffaloe (County Commissioner), John Barnes (Franklin County Chamber, Chairman), Leelan Woodlief, Elic Senter (Mayor of Franklinton), Mark McArn, Don Lancaster (County Commissioner), Pat Young (Planning & Inspections Director), and Brenda Robbins (Administrator, Town of Youngsville). Also, in attendance were Richie Duncan-Existing Industry Coordinator, Lori Duke-Admin. Support Specialist, and Gary Cunard (The Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting were Commissioners: Mike Leonard, Bobbie Jo May, Joyce Cooke, Mayor Karl Pernell (Mayor of Louisburg), Marsha Strawbridge (Mayor of Bunn), Bryce Mendenhall (Public Utilities Director), Lucy Allen (NC Representative), Angela Harris (Interim County Manager), Doug Berger (NC Senator), and Margaret Nelms (Mayor of Centerville).

Next, Chairman Mitchell asked the Board to review the minutes from the May 8, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Woodlief made the motion to approve the minutes, with Commissioner Robbins seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was the legislative update given by Richie Duncan. Ms. Duncan said that Representative Allen had called and asked that she give this report in her absence. Ms. Duncan said that included in the new budget is \$48 million for the widening of US 401 from the Neuse River bridge to near Rolesville, with one section including the Rolesville bypass beginning in 2011 and ending in 2013. The budget also provides \$3 million for right-of-way acquisition for the four-laning of US 401 in 2014, and another \$3 million in 2015 as well. Representative Allen suggestion was that we do whatever it takes to accelerate interest in this project, in order to let the NCDOT know how important it is. Representative Allen also suggested that we talk with landowners along US 401, and ask them not to do anything that might cause adverse consequences for the project. Commissioner Lancaster said that the State should step up its timetable, and it is not the EDC board's place to try and negotiate right-of-ways. Commissioner Lancaster suggested that Gary Cunard, publisher of the Franklin Times, get the US 401 committee active again. Richie Duncan will speak with Representative Allen and provide Mr. Cunard with the necessary contacts for this committee. Mr. Cunard said that he thinks one of the major emphasis has to come from businesses in the County, and he noted that it has been on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 35 years. Also, we

must convince Wake County and Raleigh that US 401 access being tied into I-85 opens up a whole corridor for development. Commissioner Lancaster made the motion that the steering committee be activated again, with Gary Cunard spearheading the committee. Commissioner Senter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Duncan said that Representative Allen said she recently spoke with Phil Sheridan, Industry Liaison with N.C. BioNetwork, and Sam Taylor, President of N.C. Biosciences Organization, and suggested that the EDC board – in conjunction with the Chamber and the Committee of 100 – ask Mr. Sheridan to speak at Novozymes and discuss what Franklin County is doing on behalf of Biotech, so they understand how we are involved. Richie Duncan will call Mr. Sheridan and obtain some dates and times from him, and report back at next month's meeting.

The fourth item on the agenda was the election of officers given by Commissioner Brenda Robbins. Commissioners Lyn Buffaloe, Brenda Robbins and Bobbie Jo May met with Ronnie Goswick to discuss the nominations for officers. They are presented as follows: Shane Mitchell-Chairman, Mark McArn-Vice Chairman and Leelan Woodlief-Secretary. Commissioner Buffaloe made the motion that the nominations be accepted as read, with Commissioner Senter seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The fifth item on the agenda was an update on economic development activity and existing industries by Richie Duncan. Ms. Duncan said the projects that were talked about at last month's meeting are still ongoing, and we are continuing to receive projects from RTRP as well. We are seeing a great deal of activity, and several projects are close to being announced. Ace Hardware has now opened at Youngsville Crossing, and the Waffle House in Louisburg has hired 50 people.

The sixth item on the agenda was an update on the redesign for the Franklin County snapshot given by Richie Duncan. The marketing committee met to review and suggest changes to the current snapshot, which will be presented at next month's meeting.

The seventh item on the agenda was the company visits update given by Commissioner Mark McArn. This month, the company visited was Stay-Right Precast Concrete, which is located at 2675 US 1 Hwy in Franklinton. Commissioner McArn said he spoke with Jeffrey Augustine, who is the General Manager. The building is 45,000 sq. ft., and they are in the process of adding 8,500 sq. ft. for an outside storage lot. Stay-Right has 55 employees, and manufactures finished precast concrete products. They serve general contractors, municipalities, subdivision developers, large commercial septic tanks, grease tanks, storm water, etc. Stay-Right has been in business since 1937, and the Franklin County facility has been open since 2006. Mr. Augustine said they like being located on US 1, and think Franklin County's growth is great because they sell product to build infrastructure. Stay-Right doesn't have any educational needs right now, but they would like to participate in a partnership with VGCC sometime in the near future. Mr. Augustine said they would like to discuss having a co-op where students can intern at the company. Commissioner McArn said when visiting future businesses, he would like to have a resource sheet to give to the company representative, which

would give them information on who to contact in reference to any issue or concern they may have. Commissioner Buffaloe suggested that when the Chamber has a ribbon-cutting at a business, that someone should send them a thank you letter on their one-year anniversary. He said that maybe the Committee of 100 could be involved with the Chamber on this also.

The eighth item on the agenda was an update on Triangle North Franklin by Commissioner Lancaster. The road and the water line into the shell building are almost finished, and landscaping is being done also. Commissioner Lancaster said we are still negotiating with someone to purchase the shell building, and the two lots across from the shell building. Commissioner Lancaster said he is very confident he will have definite news at the next EDC meeting.

Next, in the absence of Commissioner Mike Leonard, Commissioner Lancaster gave an update on the shell building. Commissioner Lancaster said that this item was previously discussed in agenda item eight (8).

In other business:

- Richie Duncan said that Commissioner Lancaster forwarded to her an email from Bob Radcliffe, who said that the historical society had contacted him about the possible historic significance of his farm. Mr. Radcliffe was very involved in the “5th Annual Franklin County Farm Foods & Crafts Tour”, which was held on May 17th and 18th. Mr. Radcliffe owns Lynch Creek Farm & Antiques, which is located on Rocky Ford Road in Kittrell, and spoke at the May 21, 2008 Committee of 100 board meeting.
- Chairman Mitchell said that Jeffrey’s Way, which is located off of NC 96 in Youngsville, and is the back entrance that leads to Mosswood Blvd. in the Youngsville Commerce Center, has a very large and dangerous pothole on it. Chairman Mitchell said he would like the EDC to get involved in seeing what can be done to repair this road. It is a private road, and the NCDOT will not repair it. We need to find out who owns this portion of the road, and try to get it taken care of. It is believed that John Carrington and Bob Luddy had the road put in. Richie Duncan said that Ronnie Goswick has contacted Bill Francis in Bob Luddy’s office, but has not received a response from him. Commissioner Buffaloe asked whose responsibility is it to barricade the area around the area in question. Commissioner Robbins said that the NCDOT has a sign up saying where the state-maintained road ends, but it is a private road and anyone wishing to repair it would have to get permission from the owner(s). Town of Youngsville workers have put gravel in the hole before, but it does not last long. After some discussion, Chairman Mitchell said we will continue to work on this until we can find a solution.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.