

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING
BETWEEN LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
SANFORD CITY COUNCIL,
BROADWAY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
LEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GORDON WICKER CONFERENCE ROOM
LEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
106 HILLCREST DRIVE
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

October 6, 2011
5 P.M.

The City Council met jointly with the Lee County Board of Commissioners, Broadway Town Commissioners, Lee County Economic Development Corporation, on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 5 P.M., in the Gordon Wicker Conference Room. The following people were present from the Sanford City Council:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive	Council Member L. I. (Poly) Cohen
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins	City Manager Hal Hegwer
Council Member Bob Brown	City Clerk Bonnie D. White
Council Member James Williams (arrived at 5:15 P.M.)	

Absent:

Council Member Linwood S. Mann, Sr.
Council Member Charles Taylor
Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.
City Attorney Susan C. Patterson

Lee County Board of Commissioner Chairman Linda Shook called the meeting to order. At this time, the City of Sanford did not have a quorum present. Lee County Board of Commissioner Charlie Parks gave the invocation.

Commissioner Jim Womack made the motion to approve the agenda (Exhibit A) as presented. It was unanimously approved by the Lee County Commissioners.

Chairman Linda Shook welcomed everyone and stated that this is one of the first of many meetings. Council members received a draft of the proposed Economic Development Advisory Council (See Exhibit B) which consists of various representatives to serve on the board. Mrs. Shook discussed the role of the advisory council and it was suggested to add members from the faith-based community, President of Central Carolina Community College, a representative from the Airport Authority, and an additional member from a minority business. She advised that three commissioners and Lee County Manager John Crumpton attended a class at UNC on Economic Development (See Exhibit C).

Commissioner Jim Womack read the following motion that was made at the Lee County Board of Commissioners meeting held on June 20, 2011, that was entitled "June 20, 2011 Motion to Terminate LCEDC Agreement" (Exhibit D) - "I motion for the board to adjust our budget resolution to signal our withdrawal from the present EDC organization and structure; that we notify the Town of Broadway and the City of Sanford of our intent to terminate our present contract for the EDC no later than December 31, 2011; that we transition the present EDC into an economic growth office working under the direction and supervision of the county manager by that date; that the county manager exercise close oversight of all EDC funds disbursement until the transition is complete; and that we commit to honoring the existing grants, loan oversight, and other pledges we are contractually obligated to as of June 30, 2011. He referred to the handout entitled - The Spectrum of Economic Growth (Exhibit E) which is a checklist to use and develop guidelines to go forward with economic development in the County. Mr. Womack spoke on the UNC Basic Economic Development Course that Chairperson Shook and he attended at the UNC School of Government that was presented by Market Street Services. (Exhibit B). He received information from this class that could be used to develop a strategic plan to move forward with economic development. He advised that they want to see more accountability back to the County. He said that they are trying to figure out how to improve the climate in Lee County, Sanford, and Broadway.

Lee County Manager John Crumpton said that at the class, they learned about what other counties are doing across the state in tailoring to what is going on in our community.

Council Member James Williams arrived at this time (5:15 P.M.).

Council Member Poly Cohen pointed out that the City taxpayers pay 63 percent of this tab and the County wants to take over economic development instead of equal representation. The Economic Development Corporation was developed to save everybody in the city and county from being sued and that is the reason it was set up like it was (as a non-profit organization).

Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins suggested hiring Market Street Services – the company that did the UNC Basic Economic Development Course to come in and make some solid recommendations. Mr. Womack replied that it would cost about \$250,000 or more and they probably could not do the work until after January because they are a busy company. Mr. Womack stated that he received a lot of materials at the class that could be used to help ourselves develop guidelines to move forward. Mr. Gaskins replied that the County is spending \$140,000 to evaluate the school system and there is not a big difference in that amount and what it would cost to hire Market Street Services.

Charles Mellette expressed concern about the plan the County is laying out now and there has been no involvement from the City of Sanford and the Town of Broadway.

Lee County Commissioner Richard Hayes stated that he did not want to lose the support of the partnership between the County, City, and Broadway. He opposes the director of EDC reporting to the County Manager and there is a lot of discomfort from people here and across the community. He said that it sends a wrong signal to the Department of Commerce and to

businesses. Mr. Hayes stated that we need to keep politics out of it especially for people who are considering coming to Lee County.

City of Sanford Mayor Cornelia Olive stated that the City may have its own plan but this is a start; we will listen, but we have not decided how we will proceed.

Council Member James Williams stated that we should leave the EDC Board as it is and tweak it; if it is the guidelines, they can be changed.

Those in attendance asked various questions and expressed their concerns.

County Manager John Crumpton stated the next phase would involve the appointment of an outside facilitator to help with the Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M. upon motion of Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins. Council Member Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNELIA P. OLIVE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BONNIE D. WHITE, CITY CLERK