

**Loudon County Economic Development Agency/
Joint Economic and Community Development
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Lenoir City Utilities Board
July 29th, 2021**

The following members were present: Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, Mayor Jeff Harris, John Evans, John Harrison, Eddie Simpson, Harold Duff, Bruce Giles, Rodney Grugin, George Bove, and Amber Scott-Kelso

Also present were: Mayor Tony Aikens; Hollingsworth Companies Representative, Tom Wortham; LCEDA staff members Jack Qualls and Blair Patterson

Chairman Buddy Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the April 8th, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

The minutes were emailed to the Members prior to the meeting for their review. *John Evans made a motion to approve the April 8th, 2021 minutes, seconded by Jeff Harris. All approved.*

Financial Report

John Evans presented the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet reviewing current assets, fixed assets, and liabilities. *Bruce Giles made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Eddie Simpson. Motion passed.*

Centre 75 Proposal

Hollingsworth Companies representative, Tom Wortham, attended the meeting to give a presentation on their proposal for an Industrial Building Program at Centre 75. This project would consist of dividing the Centre 75 property into sections and placing spec buildings on the property to be zoned for warehousing/light manufacturing.

After the presentation, the board discussed this proposal as well as the other possibilities that are pending for the Centre 75 site.

After discussion, *John Evans made a motion to table the project for the time being, seconded by Bruce Giles. All approved.*

Industry Directory Update

The EDA Staff has been in the process of updating the local industry directory and it is now complete. This directory is a database for industry information such as industry location, management, number of employees, and products manufactured.

Local Wage Survey Results

The EDA Staff sent out an optional Salary and Benefits Survey to the entire local industry sector. The ones that participated are to remain confidential and the information shed light on the current wage competition going on within the local industry community. The table of data provided to the board displayed the highest and lowest wages within each level of job for the entire community of participating employers.

ThreeStar Grant - \$50,000

The LCEDA applied for a ThreeStar Grant and received full funding for their project. This project will focus on the marketability and future of the community.

Projects/Prospects/Workforce Development Update

Jack Qualls gave the following updates:

- Project Groot chose to take Loudon off their shortlist for location due to the high infrastructure cost it would take to locate within LUB limits
- An update from Project Panda is expected in Mid-August

Blair Patterson gave the following updates:

- The LCEDA will be hosting a local industry showcase in honor of National Manufacturing Day on Friday, October 1st at the Venue in Lenoir City. Local schools will be in participation from 10am-12pm and the event will be open to the public from 12pm-1pm.

Additional Business

With no further business ***Jeff Harris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Evans. Motion carried.***



Blair Patterson, Recording Secretary