

**Loudon County Economic Development Agency/
Joint Economic and Community Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Williamson House
February 14th, 2019**

The following members were present: Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, Charlie Bettis, Mayor Jeff Harris, and Mayor Tony Aikens

Also present were: BOD Members Eddie Simpson, Harold Duff, John Evans (proxy for Ron Jordan), Bruce Giles, and Bob Elliott, Ex-Officio Members Amber Scott, Ty Ross, and Clayton Pangle, Loudon City Councilmen Johnny James and Tim Brewster, County Commissioners David Meers and Gary Whitfield, News Herald reporter Jeremy Nash, citizen Pat Hunter, and LCEDA staff members Jack Qualls and Blair Patterson

Chairman Buddy Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the December 12th, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes were emailed to the Members prior to the meeting for their review. There was a suggested revision due to misinterpretation. **Jeff Harris made a motion to approve the December 12th, 2018 minutes, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.**

Mayor Tony Aikens asked for clarification on voting eligibility for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Jack Qualls stated that the member differentiation is located in the LCEDA's Interlocal Agreement with the Executive Committee consisting of: Loudon County Mayor or Designee, City of Loudon Mayor or Designee, City of Lenoir City Mayor or Designee, and The Board Member whom serves as Treasurer. The Board of Directors consists of the following: Loudon County Commission representative, City of Loudon Council representative, City of Lenoir City Council representative, Loudon County Mayor, Greenbelt Property Owner, Member at Large, Loudon County Chamber Chair, Lenoir City Committee of 100 Chair.

Centre 75 – Agriculture Lease

Johnny James was present to discuss his concerns. He sent the Board of Directors a letter via email stating his issues earlier in the week. Mr. James signed agreements in 2012 and 2016 when past Executive Director, Pat Phillips, held the position at the Economic Development Agency.

The Centre 75 property holds the lease with Johnny James and was in the phases of being purchased by a large prospect, referred to as Project Z. Mr. James stated that he was told to stop planting soybeans during this time. Project Z did not locate in Loudon due to acquiring an existing building elsewhere. Mr. James questions if the Board would like to continue the lease with him, requests a \$4000 credit adjusted on his 2019 payment due to his previous year's losses, and also questions as to why a new lease was sent to him in 2016. He stated that the current lease was brought to him when current Executive Director, Jack Qualls, was hired. Jack Qualls stated he was hired in July of 2016 and was not present for

the signing or agreement of the ag lease. The Committee pointed out that the current lease with Johnny James was signed by past Executive Director, Pat Phillips, on January 16th, 2016. Chairman Buddy Bradshaw asked the Executive Committee how they would like to proceed with business. **Tony Aikens made a motion to bring the agriculture lease issue in front of the Board of Directors, seconded by Jeff Harris. Motion passed.**

Letters received from the City of Loudon and Loudon County

Tony Aikens stated that this issue should be taken to the Board of Directors Meeting for essence of time and due to it needing to be a full board discussion. **Tony Aikens made a motion to bring the letters received from the City of Loudon and Loudon County in front of the full Board of Directors, seconded by Jeff Harris. Motion carried.**

With no further business, **Jeff Harris make a motion to adjourn seconded by Charlie Bettis, all approved.**

Blair Patterson, Recording Secretary