

**TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, July 2, 2018
Municipal Complex, Committee Meeting Room, 3rd Floor
100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

MINUTES

Members Present: Bob Brimmer, Chairman, Joe Bustos, Kathy Landing and Rick Crosby (MPW)

Staff Present: Eric DeMoura, Town Administrator; Amy Livingston, Business and Tourism Manager

Mr. Brimmer called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 4, 2018 meeting

Mr. Bustos moved for approval; seconded by Ms. Landing. All present voted in favor.

2. Public Comments

[None]

3. Report on Economic Development Tour

Ms. Livingston thanked those who were able to attend. She stated that she also appreciates those Council members who were able to meet individually with some of the businesses. They toured four different Mount Pleasant businesses, in addition to a vacant parcel within the Port District Economic Development Study. She said the purpose of this tour was to provide Mayor and Council with an opportunity to engage with the CEO's within the current target clusters of the Town's economic development strategy, have an opportunity to talk to them about their challenges or why they are in Mount Pleasant, what is wonderful about being in the Town, what is working for them, or not, and to learn more about their industry. Each industry on the tour was chosen as being representative of one of the One Region target clusters. She said each

industry has its own set of challenges; however, there are some recurring items which will be important as we move into our Economic Development Retreat. She stated that staff is still working on scheduling this retreat.

Mr. Brimmer thanked Ms. Livingston for organizing the tour. He stated that touring those companies was eye-opening for him, because so many of the conversations that we have had in the past focused on what the Town believes businesses need to be successful in Mount Pleasant. He said what he discovered from this tour was that some of those beliefs were challenged. He said for example, space. He said space is important for some industries, however, there are more and more businesses that do not rely on having a great deal of space or specific space. He kept hearing from many that they can work from anywhere. He said many individuals work around the country and the world and even in a Starbuck's. He said from that perspective, having set space is something the Town needs to look at in terms of who needs the space, how much, how flexible and what type of space. He said it is simply not the same as it was twenty or thirty years ago. He said workforce was another item brought up, not only to find the workforce, but to retain them which has a great deal of quality of life issues attached to them. He said listening to them really opened his eyes to the fact that perhaps some of the Town's policies, ordinances and approaches to economic development may be lagging. He believes the Town needs to take a more forward look in terms of where the economy is going in the future and to attempt to get ahead of that curve as opposed to responding to what is happening today. He said it will generate some interesting discussions going forward. He said overall it was a beneficial tour.

Ms. Landing stated that she was not on the tour; however, Ms. Livingston assisted in facilitating individual meetings. The #1 thing she hears from all the businesses is how much they appreciate the Town even being interested. She said when you talk to those businesses, ask questions and listen, they appreciate Council taking an active role. She stated that she

likes the idea that Council is beginning to be more proactive in their approach.

4. Consideration of an economic development incentive grant:

a. Executive Session – discussion of a contractual matter related to an economic development grant

Mr. Bustos moved to adjourn into executive session; seconded by Ms. Landing. All present voted in favor.

Committee adjourned into executive session at 12:10 p.m.

5. Post executive session no votes or action

Committee may take action on any item listed on an executive session agenda or discussed in an executive session during a properly noticed meeting.

Committee reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

Mr. Brimmer declared that no action or votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Landing made a motion that this Committee send to full Council an agenda item for an executive session in regard to the discussion of a contractual matter related to an economic development grant; seconded by Mr. Bustos. All present voted in favor.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ashe

July 2, 2018