

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Groat, Johnson, Lasher and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli. Supervisor Robusto was not present for today's meeting.

Mrs. Worth reviewed her monthly activities report. The Christmas Tree Growers Facebook Campaign went very well, the final grant report for the Apple Tasting Tour is complete and the Office remains active with distribution of materials and attending events as possible. Renovations to the first floor of the County's 9 Pearl Street building will begin in the very near future, Mrs. Worth is working with the Public Works Department on the relocation of items she has in a storage area on that floor. It is estimated the second quarter payment from the State to the Tourism Office will be reduced by 20% for 2020 and there is no update on third or fourth quarters. Mrs. Worth forwarded information to her partners regarding "Raising the Bar" Restaurant recover funds available to restaurants for costs related to COVID-19 improvements, equipment and supplies. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator hours were reduced to five a week. The Coordinator remains busy and is working with *Rush Outdoors* and *New York Outdoor News* about possible ads and promotions.

The following transmittals were present for the Economic Development/Planning Department:

--Authorization to re-appoint Robert Debadts to the Industrial Development Board of Directors. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to amend the 2021 budget for Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant funding in the amount of \$600,000 to the County's Planning Department. Funds will be utilized to develop Brownfield inventory, prioritize sites, conduct community involvement activities, conduct site assessments and develop clean-up project plans for reuse related to Brownfield sites. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign agreements with the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency for payment of 2021 approximations of \$337,897. Funds are utilized for staff and administration of the IDA and for funding the Business Retention and Expansion Program. Mr. Blake reviewed how IDA requested their Agency not be required to meet outside contractor insurance requirements since they only have a County workforce. Mr. Pincelli said this issue is being worked out with the County Attorney. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to appoint Justin Mastrangelo, as a Town of Savannah Representative, to the Wayne County Planning Board. Mr. Pincelli said he received this individual's name from

PAGE 2

Savannah Supervisor Mike Kolczynski; however, has not confirmed membership with Mr. Mastrangelo. Tabled.

Amy Nuessle addressed the Committee with concerns over the 2020 Wayne County Kick-Start Event sponsored by the Wayne County Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). Her business was a contestant in the competition. Mrs. Nuessle and her husband questioned the eligibility of the applicant who won stating the company had been in business longer than the guidelines allowed.

Committee members noted the County did not have any direct involvement in the event and that the WEDC had a separate board of directors. Mrs. Nuessle said she sent an email to the WEDC voicing her concerns and felt that the response she received was incomplete. She stated that the owner of the business that won the competition entered under a new product name, not their existing business name. She also noted each competitor had to sign an agreement verifying his or her eligibility. Mr. Nuessle voiced concern that not all participants were acknowledged in the press releases announcing the winner. Mr. Spickerman said he would discuss this with the WEDC Board and would prepare a response to comments made by Mrs. Nuessle and her husband.

Mr. Lasher made a motion the Committee enter into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter with Mr. Pincelli present, Mr. Groat second. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m.