

# Hilton Head Island Economic Development Corporation

## Minutes of Tuesday, March 25, 2014

**Members Present:** Maryann Bastnagel, Steven Carb, Carlton Dallas, John Joseph, Diana McKenzie, Steve Riley, Tom Upshaw, Ray Wenig

**Members Absent:** none

**Town Council:** Drew Laughlin, Bill Harkins, George Williams, Kim Likins, John McCann, Lee Edwards

**Town Staff:** Charles Cousins, Shawn Colin, Nancy Gasen, Susan Simmons

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### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Upshaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Palmetto Electric Community Room.

### 2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

### 3. New Business

**a. Economic Development Corporation Presentation to Town Council.** Chairman Upshaw reviewed the background, mission, members and the accomplishments to date of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

- i. Goal # 1 – Attract New Business.** Diana McKenzie reported on key activities for attracting new business such as launching a separate EDC website, social media outreach and promoting why HHI is “Open for Business.”
- ii. Goal # 2 – Support Existing Business Growth.** John Joseph reported that his team seeks to reduce obstacles to enable success for local businesses; identify specific resources guided by a return-on-investment for the community.
- iii. Goal # 3 – Address Infrastructure Challenges.** Maryann Bastnagel reported that this team is working with telecommunications suppliers and real estate developers/professionals to understand current inventory and condition of available network technology and commercial space.
- iv. Goal # 4 – Hire Executive Director.** Carlton Dallas reported that the Executive Director needs to be a confident, articulate deal maker, possessing a strong network of business contacts and the skills to drive deals to successful closure for Hilton Head Island. Interviews with Executive Recruitment Firms will take place next week; will select a firm by April 15. An Executive Director should be on board by July 2014.
- v. EDC Funding Requirements.** Chairman Upshaw reviewed the EDC FY2015 proposed budget estimates. Chairman Upshaw completed his presentation by asking Town Council for: (1) Validation of EDC strategy and approach; (2) Support for EDC FY2015 budget request.

After a brief discussion, Town Council thanked the EDC for all the work they are doing and they are moving in the right direction and have made good decisions. The work of the EDC is vital for our community's future. In order to have a thriving community we must have diversity.

Chairman Upshaw thanked the Town Council on behalf of the EDC for their support.

#### **4. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Eileen S. Wilson  
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Approved April 7, 2014  
G. Thomas Upshaw, Chairman