

# Hilton Head Island Economic Development Corporation

## Minutes of Tuesday, May 13, 2014

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

**Town Council:** Mayor Laughlin, Bill Harkins, John McCann, George Williams

**Town Staff:** Charles Cousins, Shawn Colin, Nancy Gasen, Brian Hulbert

---

### 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. Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2014

The minutes of April 22, 2014 were approved as presented.

### 4. Old Business – none

### 5. New Business

- a. **Comments from Mayor Laughlin.** On behalf of Town Council, the Mayor thanked the EDC members for their service and dedication. The Mayor stated that the Town Council is confident that they have selected the right people to do this job. Town Council is committed to this economic development effort and understands it requires a long term commitment. There is no instant gratification in economic development business. We have an unusual demographic for a community of our size. We need to grow and develop opportunities across generations - that is how communities thrive. Most entities or municipal or county departments that are successful with economic development have been at it a long time. We must work cooperatively with the Chamber, Economic Alliance, Department of Commerce, Beaufort County and all these entities not compete with them.

The Mayor stated that this is a sector by sector effort. We cannot just recruit individual businesses; we need to grow what we have. We must not neglect those doing business here now. The hospital and healthcare arena is a very fertile ground for growing the economy on Hilton Head Island.

- b. **Executive Recruitment Firm – Needs Assessment Report.** Mr. Dallas reported that the EDC received the feedback results from the interviews that were conducted by PACE. This feedback is very helpful and informative. The feedback is verbatim and put into categories but does not reveal the source of the feedback. Mr. Dallas stated that EDC members can submit to him edits regarding the job description that PACE will be sending out to potential candidates for the Executive Director position.
- c. **Proposed EDC Employment Structure.** Mr. Dallas stated that after thoroughly reviewing other alternatives, the most cost effective decision would be for the Executive Director to be a contract employee of the Town and leased to the EDC. The Town's benefit package will be a major attraction to potential candidates. The EDC will manage and direct that employee and provide feedback to the employee. EDC must meet certain legal and regulatory requirements in order to keep autonomy.
- d. **Discussion of schedule for upcoming presentations.** EDC members will submit their suggestions for upcoming presentation to Ms. Bastnagel and she will coordinate with Mr. Colin.

**6. Appearance by Citizens – none**

**7. Executive Session**

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Joseph made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential contractual arrangement. Mr. Dallas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:20 a.m. Chairman Upshaw opened the meeting.

Mr. Joseph made a motion that the EDC authorize Chairman Upshaw to negotiate and enter into an employee lease agreement with the Town. Mr. Dallas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next EDC meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at Palmetto Electric Community Room on Mathews Drive. There will be a Town Council budget workshop on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. – the EDC members are encouraged to attend to show support for the budget.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Eileen S. Wilson  
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Approved 5/27/2014  
G. Thomas Upshaw, Chairman