

HARDEE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
(INDEPENDENT BOARD)
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET, ROOM 102
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873
March 05, 2013 8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

Members:

David Royal, Chairman, P
Perry Knight, P
Kenny Miller, P
Stanley Pelham, P

Roger Hood, P
Casey Dickson, P
Sue Birge, Vice-Chairman, P
Terry Atchley, P

County Attorney Ken Evers, P County Manager Lexton H. Albritton, Jr., P
Office Manager Sandra Meeks, P

Rev. Dr. Dewayne Wyatt led the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Royal called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION by Atchley, second by Pelham to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Birge, second by Hood to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

- i. Request approval and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification No. 1 with the City of Bowling Green (Cycle 9) extending the scope of their project description.

Jerry Conerly, City Manager, City of Bowling Green thanked the Board for having the Special Meeting for the City of Bowling Greens request. He explained to the Board how the bids for the water line had come in significantly less than they had estimated and would leave them with an excess of funds. He further explained they were requesting the Board approve for them to use the excess funds for the design which would move their project ahead a year. He advised the Board they had a copy of the proposal and he also brought Steven Elias from Envisors with him if they had any questions. Pelham stated everyone was happy to see the installation came in cheaper, but there were some questions about the bid coming in 40 percent less and how that was a considerable amount. Mr. Conerly explained there was a wide range between the bids, but was excited about the bid. Pelham asked if he would be back before the board for each of the phases. Mr. Conerly explained yes, but there was only one phase left. He further explained the next cycle request would complete the project. Pelham explained

he did not think in his opinion, the EDA should be funding the entire project. He felt the City should be funding some of the items. Hood asked what the total cost of the project would be and if they had looked at other grants. Mr. Conerly explained Phase V was installing the infrastructure and designing the parcels. He advised it was similar to what they had done for the County's Industrial Park. He asked Mr. Elias, Vice President, Envisors if he has an idea of the approximate cost. Mr. Elias advised a rough estimate would be \$40,000 to \$60,000 per acre. Mr. Conerly advised all they wanted at this time was to use the money that had been allocated to complete the design and move the project up by a year. Hood explained his initial presumption was for the City of Bowling Green to reapply for the funds at the next cycle because the excess funds were really the EDA's because of the grant being reimbursable. Knight touched on the importance of the project being shovel ready. Dickson expressed her concern on the EDA funding the entire cost of the project and how she felt their job was to foster economic development. She asked at what point they would not depend on funding from the EDA. Mr. Conerly explained he did not expect to be back before the board asking for money for buildings. He further explained what they wanted was to partner with everyone to entice businesses to locate here. He added their park would just be an additional location for businesses. Dickson asked about maintenance of the park. Mr. Conerly advised they had the ability to maintain the park; just did not have the money to build it. Atchley stated he wanted to applaud the City of Bowling Green's efforts for taking on such a challenge in their community. He further explained how the EDA had made a commitment to the City of Bowling Green when they awarded them the \$425,000 grant. He also touched on the advantages of the project and expressed his concerns regarding change orders. Birge also expressed her concerns with change orders. She also commended Mr. Conerly on his efforts in moving Bowling Green forward. Mr. Conerly touched on how they were in the project together. Miller asked with the investment made so far if they didn't do anything else would it have been a waste. Mr. Conerly explained no the water line was a benefit. Chairman Royal commended Mr. Conerly for his efforts. Hood explained he just did not think the City of Bowling Green was ready at this time for the EDA to fund this project. After further discussion, **MOTION by Pelham, second by Hood** to not approve the modification. Motion fails 5 to 3. Hood, Pelham Dickson voted in favor of the motion. Birge, Knight, Miller, Royal, and Atchley voted against the motion. **MOTION by Atchley, second by Miller** to approve and authorization for Chairman to sign Modification No. 1 with the City of Bowling Green (Cycle 9) extending the scope of their project description. Motion passed 5 to 3. Pelham, Dickson, and Hood voting nay.

II. Public Comment.

Frank Kirkland, Citizen expressed his concern over what the Board had just done and how he opposed it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.



David Royal, Chairman