

***Hardee County Economic Development Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2009***

Attendees: Rick Justice-Chairman, John Barlow-Vice Chairman, Jama Abbott, Lavon Cobb, Keith Davis, Joe Albritton, Lory Durrance, Rick Knight, Mike Manley, Paul Samuels, Dana English, Bill Lambert, Ken Evers, Sarah Pelham

Absent: Marcus Shackelford

Visitors: Jessica Newman – Main Street Wauchula

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Justice at 9:00 am.

Minutes: Motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Rick Knight to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes. Motion approved.

Agenda: A motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Dana English to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Director's Report

EDC Planning Session Open Discussion: Open discussion was held regarding the planning session to be held on February 18. Lavon stated there should be a workshop held with the commissioners, building department and planning and zoning. Try to find a way to be more customer service oriented. Lory Durrance said, the private sector is 100% customer service oriented.

Bill stated that we are still an Ag community, but Ag is shrinking. We need to find an alternative.

Jama Abbott stated we need to clean up and decide what we want to become. Discussion was held regarding cleaning up the schools, streets, neighborhoods.

Discussion was held on the need for training sessions for county departments. Rick Knight suggested a question box be placed for people to express their thoughts. Bill stated the information comes in bits and pieces; we don't have a fluid way to manage the process.

The planning session will be the first focus group to discuss these matters. Other groups will be formed as well.

Fred Ford's Contract: Ken Evers will receive the contract today.

Marketing Report

Loop Net Report: The board reviewed the attached Loop net report in the packet.

Finance Report

Finance Report:

Motion was made by John Barlow and seconded by Joe Albritton to accept the Financial Report. Motion approved.

There was no other business to come before the board. John Barlow motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.