



**Banks Economic Development Commission
February 3, 2016
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER Economic Development Commission Chair Rachel Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Marsha Kirk, Planning Commissioner Rodney Jacobs, Rich Weitzel, Planning Commissioner Rachel Nelson, Councilor Michael Nelson, Councilor Mark Walsh, Doug Hixson, Mayor Pete Edison, Jeff Leo, and John Morgan.

Absent: Michael Samson, Carolyn McCormick and Mark Ward.

Staff present: City Manager Jolynn Becker.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Rodney Jacobs motioned to accept the minutes as written, Michael Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS AGENDA

Public Meeting Discussion: Jolynn Becker reviewed the Public Meeting Laws. She explained that all conversations, email communications, and any communications amongst Commission Members is public record. John Morgan explained a little more in detail what constitutes a public meeting, and cautioned members on consequences.

Rachel Nelson will be contacting each member individually to ask questions regarding strengths and interests. This will help her as we move forward with assigning tasks to different commission members. Rachel will compile a report on the findings, so everyone has a copy.

Update on Current Planning Projects: Jolynn Becker went over current planning projects, and projects that are being reviewed for possible revisions/refinement. She discussed and gave updates on the the East Banks Transportation Plan Refinement, the Main Street Master Plan, Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, TGM Grants, Urban Renewal Districts, Council/Planning Commission Workshops, and Wilkesboro Road Industrial Properties.

Review current City of Banks list of Business Licenses: A list of the current business license holders was distributed with the agenda packets. Rich Weitzel asked how long licenses were good for, and when they are reviewed. Jolynn Becker explained that business licenses are issued for a year at a time, and are renewed annually. She also informed the commission that the City Code regarding Business Licensing Regulations is in the process of being reviewed and updated. She briefly discussed some of the changes to the code that are currently being presented to Council. Rodney Jacobs asked what revenue the City receives from business licenses. Jolynn Becker stated that the fee for a business license is \$35.00. Rodney Jacobs asked if the \$35.00 fee covers staff costs for processing the licenses. Marsha Kirk asked if non-profits are required to have business licenses. Jolynn Becker stated that yes, non-profits must obtain a business license. However, the business license fees are waived for non-profits.

Economic Vision/Aspirations/Goals: John Morgan referred to the list of aspirations and goals that was included in the agenda packet. Rachel Nelson also created a document combining multiple documents. John Morgan went over the document that he created regarding aspirations. His document was intended to help the commission move in the direction of determining their aspirations. He went through the document by aspiration statement, with general discussion by the commission on their feelings, concerns, and suggestions on each statement.

John Morgan suggested that moving forward the group bring together all the previous economic development work, along with new ideas to create the framework for developing the strategy for moving forward. Rachel Nelson applauded John Morgan for how he compiled all the general feelings and suggestions that were presented by the membership at the last meeting. Rachel then referred to the document that she compiled. This document combined all the previous reports that had been completed, and she feels that the document that John Morgan created dovetails in nicely with the document she compiled. She would like to see the commission dig into the past, and use some of the great information that was previously researched, rather than reinventing the wheel. Rachel discussed the document she compiled in more detail, and reviewed the documents that she pulled the information from. There was general discussion amongst the group regarding the document. Michael Nelson asked if staff could send out electronic copies of the documents to commission members. Rachel asked the Commissioners to review the documents, and bring back ideas, suggestions, and concerns to the next meeting. Pete Edison thanked Rachel for her work. Pete suggested that all commissioners read the reports that Rachel used to compile her document. There is a lot of valuable information, and a lot of good foundation that has previously been established. Jolynn Becker also suggested that the members review the Parking Study, and the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. Next Regular Meeting will be held on March 2nd, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Angie Lanter – City Recorder