

DeFuniak Springs City Council and
Economic Development Committee
Workshop Meeting
May 17, 2016

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D Ennis Sr., Councilwoman Janie Griffith, Councilman Kermit Wright, Councilman Ron Kelley, and Interim City Manager Tilman Mears. Economic Development Committee members present: Chair Mac Work, Terry Dawkins, Angie Willoughby, Mike Davis and Rebecca King. Councilman Mac Carpenter, City Clerk Loretta Laird, and Economic Development Committee member Brad Balfanz were absent from the meeting.

Mayor Campbell called the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and City Council workshop to order at 6 p.m. and indicated meeting was to discuss the progress of the Department of Economic Opportunity's Competitive Florida grant and to discuss the different steps for developing an Economic Development Plan.

Dr. Robert McKnight, DEO Competitive Florida grant coordinator, discussed the previous joint workshop held on April 19, 2016, with the 15 ranked citizen visions, the nine citizen ranked barriers that derived from the nine community conversation meetings. McKnight further stated the Department of Economic Opportunity has submitted the draft asset mapping report, which was 95-percent complete as of May 12, 2016, and was included in the workshop packet for review.

McKnight further discussed the ways the city can implement and assist the proposed plan with growth ideas and citizen involvement. McKnight further discussed ten target areas for the DeFuniak Springs Economic Development Plan, with two additions since the last workshop meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

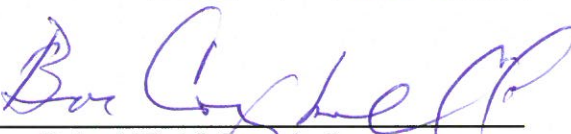
McKnight suggested 10 working groups to assist with the economic development plan, with each group having six to eight citizens who nominate themselves. McKnight discussed the process being referred to as Community Stewardship Initiative (CSI). The members would educate, motivate, inspire, and empower the city and its residents to be creative, innovative, vocal, flexible, and determined to achieve the respective target goal. The CSI duties are to spearhead the plan implementation details and advise the EDC and City Council members.

McKnight discussed the financial sustainability plan funding to nurture and support the CSIs in the future with additional grants, contributions, city staff salary savings, and budgetary funding. McKnight recommended the CSIs consider the advantages to organize as a not-for-profit 501c organization, to assist in attracting grant funding.

Discussion occurred relating to the grant coordinator position and to have Competitive Florida Grant coordinator Robert McKnight moderate the public forum on May 24, 2016. Consensus of the council was given for McKnight to proceed with the proposed 10 target areas as the Economic Development Plan proposal to the Department of Economic Opportunity.


There being no further business, Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 7 p.m.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June, 2016.



Mayor Robert "Bob" Campbell

ATTEST:



Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk