SPECIAL JOINT MEETING - JANUARY 15, 2025
LINCOLN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
LINCOLNTON CITY COUNCIL
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Lincolnton City Council, Lincoln Economic Development Association, and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 8:45 a.m. at the Lincoln County Administration Building located at 353 N. Generals Blvd., Lincolnton, North Carolina, 28092.

Mr. Jamie Lineberger, Chair of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, call the Commissioner meeting to order, which was followed by Mayor Ed Hatley calling the meeting for the Lincolnton City Council to order. City Council elected officials and staff that were in attendance were as follows:

Mayor Ed Hatley
Kevin Demeny
Mark Johnson
City Manager Ritchie Haynes
City Attorney John Friguglietti,
City Clerk Daphne Ingram

ABSENT: City Councilmember Jill Tipton and City Councilmember Roby Jetton

Mr. David Lee, Chair for the LEDA board, called the meeting to order. Various board members and staff were in attendance and on hand to discuss issues if called upon.

Addressing the group, Mr. Cliff Brumfield, LEDA Director, thanked everyone for attending and directed everyone's attention to the meeting agenda. After introductions, Mr. Brumfield reviewed LEDA's mission statement and spoke to each of the organization's goals as:

Retention and Expansion of Existing Businesses
Attraction of Diversified Base Industries,
Improvement of the Overall Business Climate with Lincolnton and Lincoln County
Assisting Small Business Start Ups and Expansions

Mr. Brumfield also gave a detailed overview of the strategic objectives and a 2024 recap. The 2024-2025 Strategic Objectives were presented as follows:

- Existing Industry-World Class service to existing industries, champion workforce and pipeline development through established means plus seeking private partnership in combined training center, coordinate BRE FDI visit to native HQ's
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship – Partner in local leaderships vision for growth realized, expand available service knowledge to greater business community across county, collaborate with property owners to best prepare for new business locations

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- Organizational Management – Advance product development efforts with landowners, leadership; ensure team has resources needed to succeed, ensure City/County priorities are met, prepare for organization's future, seek additional private member support.

- Business Development – Robust marketing plan for advanced product offerings and organization, establish communication and development potential for identified future sites, collaborate with BRE in WF planning maximize existing speculative development potential
- Office and Information Management – Enhance stakeholder communications, ensure legacy data systems are adequate for future needs, increase use of data resource platforms

Facts and statistics on Lincoln County manufacturing were reviewed, and the incredible brick and mortar progress on announced new investments was highlighted. Mr. Brumfield informed that new investments by industries in Lincoln County for FY 23/24 totaled $361,190,289, with 297 jobs announced. He stated that Lincoln County ranked 7th in the state for job creation and 10th in the state for new investment for fiscal year 2024.

Mr. Brumfield continued his presentation as he spoke about business development missions and the importance of relationships. He mentioned Select USA, the Industrial Managers Association (IMA), the October Industrial Appreciation Events and the supply chain & logistic appreciation event that was held. He talked about the Lincoln County Schools student tours to the various industries, which led to what he called solutions through partnership, linking economic development, education and business/industry. Mr. Brumfield recognized Mrs. Kara Brown for her hard work and the awards received because of it.

There was discussion regarding future plans for Lincoln Campus Gaston College and the work being done to construct a training center to address the growing needs in the workforce. Mr. Brumfield went on to report on Small Business and Entrepreneurs and the growth that took place in 2024 and the LEDA website redesign before directing attention back to the 2024-205 strategic objectives and opening the floor for comments from those in attendance.

Mayor Ed Hatley and various others made comments during this time, stressing the importance of the partnership between the City of Lincolnton, Lincoln County and the Lincoln Economic Development Association, the importance of the career center, and critical need for affordable housing in the city and the county. City and County collaboration and the courthouse project, with its challenges were discussed. Megan Gilbert, the County Attorney, gave an update on the airport, informing that both the Board of County Commissioners and the Lincolnton City Council acted at their last

meetings to complete what should be the finale step of the process. There was some discussion regarding the AMC property (old movie theater), construction of a new library in east Lincoln County, the Riverbend project and shared services.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no more discussion, Mayor Ed Hatley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Mark Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Members voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.

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DAPHNE INGRAM, CMC
CITY CLERK

ED HATLEY
MAYOR

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