

GREENVILLE UTILITIES COMMISSION

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Monday, February 11, 2019

The Board of Commissioners of the Greenville Utilities Commission met in the Greenville Utilities Board Room in Special Session at 12:00 noon with the following members, and others present, and Chair Blount presiding.

Commission Board Members Present:

Rebecca Blount, Chair
Joel Butler
Parker Overton
Don Mills

Minnie J. Anderson
Ann E. Wall

Tommy Stoughton and Kelly L. Darden, Jr. had an excused absence.

Commission Staff Present:

Tony Cannon, General Manager/CEO
Phil Dixon
Jeff McCauley
John Worrell
Kathy Howard
Amy Wade
Lou Norris

Others Present:

Spence Cosby, Pitt County Committee of 100
Crystal Morphis, Creative Economic Development Consulting

Chair Blount called the meeting to order and Mr. Overton ascertained that a quorum was present.

Safety Brief

Tony Cannon, General Manager/CEO, provided a safety brief and explained the plan of action should there be an emergency at today's meeting.

Economic Development

Mr. Cannon introduced Crystal Morphis with Creative Economic Development Consulting. Ms. Morphis stated that there was a desire among community leaders to enhance and improve economic development programs and initiatives in Greenville and in the Pitt County surrounding communities. She reminded the Board that Convergent Nonprofit Solutions was retained in February 2018 and conducted over 10 roundtable discussions and 61 interviews with Pitt County business and community leaders on their views of economic development in the area. Over 78% indicated that they supported creating a public-private partnership to lead economic development.

In October of 2018, an Economic Development Working Committee was appointed to review public-private partnership models, governance structures, funding sources, and staffing. The Committee worked for several months and in December the Committee endorsed a collaborative economic development organization that represents Pitt County, municipalities, private sector and economic development ally organizations. In January, the County withdrew support for proceeding. It was noted that the County was concerned about small municipalities not being heard. Ms. Morphis stated that the proposed governance structure of the proposed public-private partnership has allowed municipalities voting seats on the board of directors.

There was some discussion regarding next steps. It was noted that it is important to have a unified support when working with the state and recruiting new businesses. Ms. Wall, City Manager/Commissioner, added that City Council wants to see Pitt County grow and supports this new model. It was the consensus of the Board to support the Working Committee's recommendation even though the County withdrew its support. Ms. Morphis indicated that if the County does not support the partnership, then the structure of the new partnership would need to be revised. GUC may be required to participate in a different capacity than currently structured.

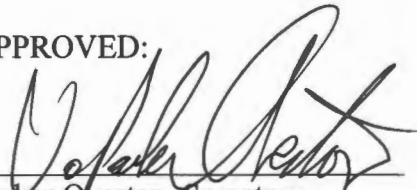
There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners Chair Blount adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Carson Wade, Executive Secretary

APPROVED:



Parker Overton, Secretary