

City of DeBary
Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting
TUESDAY
April 22, 2008
7:00 PM

Florence K. Little Town Hall
12 Colomba Road DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Alemany called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Vice Chairman Joe Alemany, Mark Meister, Chris Yacenda, Val Emerson, Rich Gunter and Sid Vihlen, Jr.

Absent: Chairman Don Kitner and Helene Leininger (alternate member)

Also Present: City Manager Maryann Courson

3. Approval of Minutes

- Meeting of March 20, 2008

Mr. Meister moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Yacenda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- Opt Out of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Ms. Courson noted that she received some information on the small cities economic development CDBG program discussed by Rick Michael at the last meeting. She stated that officials at the State believe that it is a very strong funding source, and they do not anticipate a decrease in funding due to the economy; that many applicants drop out because proposed businesses do not receive financing; that generally, most people that make it through the entire application process get funded; and that seven million is left in 2007-2008 to roll over into next year.

Mr. Meister voiced his skepticism about it being easy funding to obtain.

Ms. Courson spoke about the City's use of the CDBG funding to accomplish handicap improvements in recent years.

Ms. Emerson voiced her concern that the small cities program is project driven.

Mr. Yacenda pointed out that tax money is lost every year because the corner of Dirksen and 17-92 has an agricultural exemption and pays minimal taxes. He said he is willing to take the risk because it would be better for the City in the long run.

There was discussion regarding Nelson LC moving to DeBary.

The Committee discussed the economic downturn and its impact on economic development. Mr. Vihlen stated that although residential development is down, industrial development is still healthy.

Bob Garcia, 101 Sunrise Boulevard, stated that the City has relied on residential property taxes for too long, and they should work to bring in businesses to shoulder the tax burden.

Mr. Yacenda made a motion to recommend that Council opt out of the County's program and Mr. Meister seconded. Mr. Gunter and Ms. Emerson voiced concern regarding the City giving up approximately \$165,000 over the next three years if they opt out of the County's entitlement program. The motion passed 4-2, with Ms. Emerson and Mr. Gunter dissenting.

5. New Business

- Discussion of Posting Member Information on City Website

Ms. Courson explained that a citizen asked for this item to be discussed with each board and committee. The Committee discussed that they did not wish to have their phone numbers listed, and citizens could attend meetings if they are interested.

6. Other Business by Board, Staff or the Public

Vice Chair Alemany asked Ms. Courson what the City knows about the proposed racetrack and poker room. Ms. Courson answered that nothing has been submitted to the City, and the owner has applied to the State at this point.

7. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Alemany announced the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

**APPROVED June 25, 2008
CITY OF DeBARY
Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Chairman Don Kitner