

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017 – 7:30 AM
JORDAN ROOM, MATTHEWS TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman Paul Jamison; Members Adam Brooks, Russ Gill, Steve Thomson, Commissioner John Higdon; Assistant Town Manager Becky Hawke, Town Clerk Lori Canapinno

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVENT SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Mr. Gill summarized the plan to hold an informational economic development session at the Town Hall on Friday, February 10, 2017. This general idea has been discussed in previous EDAC meetings. It would be different from previous business summits. Mr. Gill's proposed agenda includes a presentation from Liz Parham of the State of North Carolina Department of Commerce as well as discussion with some local small business owners. This would be a moderated event with Ms. Parham discussing small town business success stories from around the state and the local business owners discussing why they chose Matthews as their business location and how they succeeded. There would also be a question and answer/open discussion period for audience participation. The intent is to share success stories and get people thinking about the methods that could be adapted to work in Matthews. It could spur local business connections and show people how to see opportunities to start something new.

By consensus the group decided to move forward with the event. There was some discussion about specific speakers. The goal is to include businesspeople who can talk about their own success stories – those whose businesses make Matthews a destination. The result was that Mr. Gill will contact Rob Jacik of Carolina Beer Temple and Xan Hood of Buffalo Jackson to enquire about their participation. It may also be worthwhile to have some members of the audience prepared to share their own stories. Mr. Gill will also contact Commissioner John Urban to see if he would be interested in acting as the moderator.

An announcement will be posted for the general public and direct invitations will be sent to certain individuals and groups. These include members of the Matthews Board of Commissioners; Chamber Board; Economic Development Advisory Committee; Red Brick Partnership and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources staff and Advisory Committee; as well as key members of the business community.

The details of this event will be finalized at the January 19th EDAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Canapinno
Town Clerk