

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**September 23, 2008**  
**4:00 P.M.**

Councilman Page, Chairman, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order, with Councilmen Benson, Bennett, Rico, Gaines, Shockley, and Robinson present. City Attorney Randall Nelson and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Richard Beeland, Daisy Madison, Larry Zehnder, Gary Hilbert, Lee Norris, Jim Templeton, Dan Johnson, Jerry Stewart and Dennis Malone. Mayor Littlefield and Frank Wrinn joined the meeting later.

**WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY, LLC PROJECT PILOT**

Before beginning the meeting, Chairman Page thanked Councilman Benson for his diligent work on the Wrecker issue, with Councilman Rico adding that Councilman Benson was lucky that Councilman Pierce was not present.

At this point Chairman Page called on Steve Hiatt, who introduced Kurt Faires, the Attorney for Westinghouse.

Mr. Hiatt stated that as the Council might recall, he had come to them before concerning a Pilot Agreement for Westinghouse; the value was estimated at \$5.7 million dollars with 52 new jobs and an average wage of \$85,000 per year. Now the scope has increased greatly. Mr. Hiatt noted that he was in Pittsburgh in August and met with Westinghouse and worked with Mr. Faires and both Mayors; that it was suggested that he come back to the City Council and the County Commission with the increased scope. There is an 11 year tax abatement with the school tax still being paid—they will be paying the school tax for these 11 years at the previous schedule. Mr. Hiatt reiterated that this had been worked out with both Mayors, and they did not extend the number of years; that he was asking the Council to approve an enhancement of \$21.2 million dollars investment; wages will stay at \$85,000.

Chairman Page noted that in introductory comments, there are additional taxes for the City; that they will be paying the school taxes, but this goes into a General Fund in the County and some on the Council felt that this does not pay for our roads, police service, and recreation centers, and the City still has an obligation also and some of the money needs to go to the City coffers—that this is important for the City to realize, stating that “it takes a village to raise kids”. He noted that there is a lot that the City provides for kids, and he thanked Westinghouse, stating that we were excited about the expansion. He asked Attorney Faires to tell the Council a little more about the project.

Attorney Faires responded that it was related to the nuclear industry and would be a training facility; that the jobs would be in the \$85,000 range and that it was extremely technical.

Mr. Hiatt added that there would be a bunch of new buildings and equipment.

Councilman Benson asked if there was any fear about precedent setting?

Mr. Faires explained that they were spending money to qualify for this—that it was a win-win situation for the community.

Mr. Hiatt added that he had brought nothing before the Council until it was approved by both Mayors.

Councilman Benson confirmed that there was criteria to be met, with Mr. Hiatt noting that their investment is four times what it was. Councilman Rico felt there should be no fears about precedents as long as they qualified. Mr. Hiatt added that they would have qualified for 13 years, but they kept it at 11.

Councilman Shockley asked about the site determination. He was told by Attorney Faires that it would be off of Amnicola Highway.

Chairman Page stated that Attorney Faires should relate to Westinghouse that we are excited about this and wish them the best and a good return.

Attorney Faires responded that all “pales” next to Volkswagen, but they were pleased to be here. He asked if he needed to be present next week and was told there was no reason for him to be present.

### **STRATEGY TEAM FACILITATORS CONSULTANTS CONTRACT**

**Resolution (g)** on next week’s agenda authorizes the Mayor to extend the current contract with Strategy Team Facilitators Consultants for an additional six months, or through March 2009, to assist the Mayor with strategic planning, targeted area economic development, project planning and implementation, inter-organizations collaboration and community-based capacity building community involvement, and resource development in an amount not to exceed the current rate of \$8,888.89 per month. Mayor Littlefield explained that they proposed to extend this contract; that it had been very successful with brownfields and comes up for review from time to time. He noted that Frank Wrinn was present but was uncomfortable without the people from Atlanta being with him. This extends the contract for another six months.

Chairman Page asked Mr. Wrinn to tell us where they have been and where they are going.

Mr. Wrinn stated that they had been working with the Multi-Cultural Office to address disparities; that they had been involved in targeting development and renewal areas, hearing mostly about the Brownfields Program; that they had spent a lot of time in sustaining this.

Mayor Littlefield asked the total and was told \$800,000, with Mr. Wrinn adding that they were hoping to hit a million.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the word “renewal” caught her ear.

Mayor Littlefield explained that the renewal area that Mr. Wrinn was talking about was the renewal community that Maria Noel oversees—from the River to Alton Park on the west side—that there are two different programs.

Mr. Wrinn added that there were different programs for different areas, and we need a coordinated approach, and the Mayor is working on re-organization.

Mayor Littlefield noted that renewal areas are based on census tracts.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if this was all about hiring and industry building? Mayor Littlefield responded that it was primarily economic development.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.