

Rock Hill/York County CVB Board of Commissioners Meeting
Rock Hill/York County Airport
Special Called Meeting
October 12, 2021 | 8:00am

MINUTES

PRESENT: David Angel, Denise Cubbedge, Amy Gonzalez, Sam Hall, Chip Hutchison, Shea Maple, Lisa Moseley, Cortney Peterson, Caitlin Rogers, Tommy Schmolze, Brown Simpson, Lamar Thompson, and Mark VanSickle

STAFF: Rebekah Ardis, Allison Cleveland, Kaylin Dettman, Billy Dunlap, Brianna Francis and Mallory Snyder

GUEST: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Denise Cubbedge called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on future of Visit York County: David Angel made a motion to have dialogue to reconsider the board's previous letter and offer the county a dollar amount and conditions in order for Visit York County to stay under the county as a commission. Mark VanSickle seconded the motion. Billy then presented to the board a summary of how we got to where we are since 2018 when the County began minimizing the funding of Hospitality Tax. He informed the board of the 5-year funding agreement that was approved and signed on November 1, 2016 and was to take effect on July 1, 2017. Billy then offered explanation of our options at this point if we were to continue with the original letter that was sent to County Council, which would abolish the ordinance and merging with the City of Rock Hill PRT. Billy provided the board a recap of Monday, October 18th's County Council meeting that included information about the options County Council was presented by County Management: 1) continue as is, 2) change our ordinance to change the format of our board but that we would remain a board/commission, and 3) merge with Rock Hill PRT. David Angel read a letter from David Roberts, who could not attend the meeting, regarding Visit York County staying as a commission of the county/Option 2. David Roberts' letter was a descriptive timeline of his discussion with several County Council members, as well as his thought for sustainable funding via all local and state Accommodation Taxes. His recommendation is that if the county cannot provide funding amount that is sustainable and reliable on a guaranteed basis then he is okay to move forward with the City of Rock Hill. It was discussed that the only way for County Council's modified Option 2 to work would be to change the ordinance and the board structure but still be under the county in order to keep the state benefits for staff. There was discussion amongst the board and staff regarding how funding would be spent (county and municipal funding would stay within the county or municipality it was collected in). Individual votes were taken. David Angel provided a proxy for David Roberts. Brown Simpson and David Angel asked what the funding dollar amount would be needed as the request, Tommy Schmolze added that a public apology should be provided as well for not following through with the funding agreement back in 2016/2017. Billy reminded the board that their current position is based off the original letter that was sent regarding abolishing the ordinance and that the county assist in facilitating a merge with the City of Rock Hill. If the board wants to change it, a new motion will be needed today. David Angel made a motion to change the position of the board and come up with a funding amount and conditions on which to stay with the county. Sam Hall seconded the motion. Chip Hutchison asked for a timeline to be added into the motion. David Angel approved adding the timeline amendment to his motion. The amended motion for the board is to change their original position and come up with a funding dollar amount and conditions to stay with the county. The county will also need to provide an answer by their next council meeting. Vote was taken: Five voted in favor—David Angel, David Roberts, Sam Hall, Brown Simpson, Chip Hutchison. Eight voted against—Tommy Schmolze, Denise Cubbedge, Cortney Peterson, Amy Gonzalez, Caitlin Rogers, Shea Maple, Lisa Moseley, Mark VanSickle. There was more discussion amongst board members. David Angel made another motion that the board recommends

Option 2 and would require a minimum \$1.5M/annually for 5 years, as well as a public acknowledgement for not following through with the funding agreement back in 2016/2017. Seconded by Mark VanSickle. Tommy questioned that if a timeline could be included. Billy said that if they change our ordinance, they would need to have three readings. After discussion of timeline and what's needed of ordinance, it was decided that maybe Option 1 with no change to structure of the board but having a funding agreement/language. David Angel amended his motion to Option 1 with a guaranteed minimum level of funding at \$1.5M/annually for 5 years, public acknowledgement of past financial wrongdoings from previous funding agreement. If Option 1 cannot be met, the board recommends County Council supporting the Visit York County by assisting with a merger with the City of Rock Hill PRT. Seconded by Tommy Schmolze. Vote was taken and all were in favor.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Brown Simpson at 9:42am.

Rebekah Ardis, Scribe