

**COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2021, at 3:00 pm**  
**Council Chambers**

**Committee Members:**

Gene Merrill (Chair)  
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair)  
Shauna Bland – late  
Sam Engel- late  
Ethan Lane  
Josie Molloy- absent  
Colene Martin  
Cameron Camp - late  
Bob Schaller  
Casey Alderson - absent  
Daniel Mancuso – by phone  
Ruth Swain – by phone  
Bradley Converse  
Ron Gordon  
Vacant (Business Retail)

**Government Liaisons:**

Susan Seereiter, Business Advocate  
Darin Fowler, County Commissioner – by phone  
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction - Absent  
Curt Collins, City Council Liaison  
Amber Neeck (Housing Specialist)  
Brad Clark, Community Development Director

**Guests:**

Marta Tarantsey – Business Oregon  
Gail Atkins (Developer)  
Justin Gerlitz (Design professional/engineer)  
Valerie Lovelace, City Councilor  
DJ Faszler, City Councilor  
Sara Bristol, Mayor

**1. Roll Call:** Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm

**2. Public Comment:**

- Guest were present to speak in opposition to construction excise tax topic on the agenda.
- Mayor Bristol passed out gift bags to the committee and thanked them for their service.
- Marta shared information about CDBG Covid assistance that will be available to the City of Grants Pass providing childcare vouchers and other tools.
- Cave Junction and Grants Pass are being asked to share infrastructure projects that are a priority to Business Oregon.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Approval of minutes from September 23, 2021.

**Motion**

**Member Martin moved and Member Gordon seconded the motion to approve the minutes from September 23, 2021, as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:**

**Committee Members: Martin, Converse, Swain, Lane, Schaller, Chair Merrill, Gordon, and Vice-Chair Hawkins. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.**

**Absent: Members Dickson (resigned and moved out of state) Bland, Engel, Alderson, Molloy, and Camp**

**The motion passed.**

**4. Work Session Items:**

- a. Evaluate economic impact of Construction Excise Tax (CET) ordinance

- Bradley Clark gave a presentation overview of CET and background leading to the presentation.
- The CET was authorized in 2016 through a senate bill to provide a mechanism to help pay for affordable housing.
- Several entities are exempt from being charged a CET.
- The presentation included a suggested percentage to collect for both commercial and residential.
- There is already a CET collected for the school districts that the city administers for the school districts.
- After the presentation, several guest audiences spoke against the CET.
- Committee asked many questions and determined that adding another tax would not be in the best interest of the community.
- Committee would like to see a proven success for using CET before recommending it to Council.

#### **Motion**

**Member Martin moved and Member Gordon seconded the motion to not recommend or support the construction excise tax as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members: Martin, Converse, Lane, Swain, Schaller, Chair Merrill, Gordon, and Vice-Chair Hawkins. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member Camp.  
Absent: Members Dickson (resigned and moved out of state) Bland, Engel, Alderson, and Molloy.  
The motion passed.**

#### **b. 2022 Goal setting**

- After the CET presentation and discussion, there was little time to dig into the goals.
- Chair Merrill opened the topic up for high level ideas and several suggestions and comments followed:
  - More buildable land with available infrastructure
  - Inventory of Natural Resources
  - Star link
  - Traded Sector attraction and incentives
  - Spalding and North Valley infrastructure and improvements
  - Tiny homes
  - Broadband Infrastructure and marketing with telecommuters
  - Purchase test for Covid to prepare for 2022 mandate

#### **7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:**

- a. Goals

#### **8. Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm

**Next scheduled meeting: December 16, 2021** (based on unanimous motion from committee)

*Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.*