

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2011**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Banning, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

William B. Banning, Sr., Chairman	Debra B. Summers, V Chairman
Johnny W. Jeffcoat	M. Todd Cullum
James E. Kinard, Jr.	

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, III, Deputy County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Amazon.com - Economic Development - Chuck Whipple, Director - Mr. Whipple gave a brief update on the status of Amazon.com. He said Richard Davis, Fred Allen and the McAllister organization continue to work on behalf of Amazon since there has been a lot of misinformation out in the general marketplace about this transaction. Mr. Whipple reported the press conference last week set the tone for what was really involved in the Amazon.com transaction, the commitments made by all involved, and the economic benefits to the residents of Lexington County and the Midlands area. He thought it was successful in that it created an onslaught of phone calls and radio spots from the opposing side. An estimated 150 calls came in to the Council office with an estimated 170 calls to Mr. Scott Adams, the lead spokesman for the press conference and past chair of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Banning said Senator Cromer wants to talk with Amazon representatives. The Amazon.com tax issue is planned to go before the Legislature for approval. For information only, no action taken.

Executive Session - A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Cullum to go into Executive Session to discuss one economic development contractual matter.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Jeffcoat abstained.

Mr. Banning reconvened the meeting in open session with no motions to be considered.

Approval of Minutes - Meetings of February 22 and March 8, 2011 - A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the February 22 and March 8, 2011 minutes as submitted.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Jeffcoat abstained and Mr. Cullum was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

William B. Banning, Sr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk