

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 24, 2007

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners reconvened from the regular board meeting of July 10, 2007, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chairman
Jo Boggs, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner
David C. Dear, County Manager
Robert Yelton, County Attorney
Kerri Melton, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Pete DeLea, *The Star*
Emily Weaver, *Kings Mountain Herald*
Kathryn Larson, *Cleveland Headline News*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: INCENTIVES FOR PROJECT GIB (SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY)

Dave Hart, Vice-President of Economic Development, presented the incentive grant contract to the Commissioners. The scope of this project has the potential of between \$120 - \$900 million in investment. This project is dependent on Southern Power obtaining contracts for the electrical output of the plant. The fuel source for this project would be natural gas. "This project is a win-win situation for the county and the company. The company would require very few county services." Mr. Hart shared the details of the agreement with Commissioners (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 29*).

Chairwoman Accor opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm (*public notice was accomplished in accordance with the mandates of NCGS 158-7.1, with an advertisement published in The Star on July 14, 2007*)

Dave Hart for Adelaide Craver, Dave Hart read a letter written by Adelaide Craver, Chairwoman of the 20/20 Economic Development Partnership. Mr. Hart asked that the Clerk have a copy of the letter "for the record" (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 29*).

Roger Holland, Chairman of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, encouraged Commissioners to adopt the incentive contract. Mr. Holland shared that he had met with Southern Power and was impressed with the company. "Southern Power will be an asset to Cleveland County above and beyond just the tax money that they will generate."

Ted Alexander, 20/20 Economic Development Partnership Executive Committee member and Mayor of Shelby, acknowledged the enthusiasm of the 20/20 Executive Committee. The Executive

Committee was very impressed with the company, how they operate and their values. This project will have a tremendous tax base as well as create many construction jobs. Speaking as mayor of the City of Shelby, Mayor Alexander said, “The city recognizes the importance of this project and how beneficial it is for all citizens in Cleveland County.”

Chairwoman Accor closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. and asked Commissioners for comments.

Commissioner Hutchins explained the benefits of this project some of which included a low county investment and good tax base making this a win/win situation for Cleveland County and Southern Power Company. He said that this project hinges on Southern Power Company securing contracts to sell the power.

Commissioner Boggs expressed her excitement about the project telling Southern Power Company that she appreciates them coming to Cleveland County.

Vice-Chair Holbrook complimented David Dear, Dave Hart, Southern Power and others who have made the Commissioners aware of the steps in the process. He appreciated the openness that Southern Power shared with Commissioners and welcomed them to Cleveland County.

Chairwoman Accor shared Mr. Jessup’s testimony that, “The caliber of people that we have in David Dear and all of our staff, David Hart and the Chamber is music to our ears. We appreciate that.”

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the board, to *approve the incentive contract for Southern Power Company (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 29).*

PERSONNEL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT- ARTICLE III, SECTION 3 (A)

Commissioner Hawkins began by stating that a request has been brought to the County Manager from the Cleveland County Health Department for the hiring of a dental hygienist. Ms. Halie Ruppe has been highly recommended by Denese Stallings to replace a retired employee who had many years of service with the Cleveland County Health Department. Cleveland County Personnel Ordinance, Article III, Section 3(a) requires County Commissioners to approve the hiring of any employee above Step 5. Commissioner Hawkins recommended that Commissioners make a change to the personnel ordinance allowing the County Manager the ability to hire all employees. He recommended to remove the following sentence from Article III, Section 3(a) of the Personnel Ordinance; “Any appointment above Step 5 must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.”

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins *to remove the following sentence from Article III, Section 3(a) of the Personnel Ordinance; “Any appointment above Step 5 must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.”* Commissioner Hutchins asked if it would be

out of the ordinary to have Mr. Dear inform Commissioners when he hires any employee above Step 5. Commissioner Hawkins amended his motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the board to ***remove the following sentence from Article III, Section 3(a) of the Personnel Ordinance; “Any appointment above Step 5 must be approved by the Board of Commissioners” and the County Manager must inform Commissioners before he hires any employee above Step 5.***

RECESS TO RECONVENE

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to recess to reconvene for a Commission work session. The Commission work session is scheduled for ***Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.*** in this Commission Chamber.

*Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Kerri Melton, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*