

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP  
JUNE 27, 2016  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman McClain, Councilmen Campbell, Calhoun, Thomas, Norris and McCord.

**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Stone

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman McClain called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Mr. Lee Logan gave the invocation.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:**

Chairman McClain stated for the record that the agenda has been posted and notice has been provided to the local news media as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

Chairman McClain turned the workshop over to Ms. Crystal Morphis and Mr. Mark Simmons of Creative Economic Development Consulting.

Ms. Morphis started the workshop by stating the weaknesses, opportunities and the positive and negatives of the Economic Profile.

Mr. Simmons then proceeded to explain the organizational structure; which consisted of five other counties used in the comparison in regards to money, staffing, etc. He gave the following recommendations:

- 1) Establish task force to look at possibility of turning the Economic Development Board into a Public Private Partnership.
- 2) Make funding for Economic Development a priority.
- 3) Expand staffing capacity; explore using contractors or volunteers eventually adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> employee to assist in marketing.

Ms. Morphis continued to explain what they proposed in the Strategic Plan:

- Extending education to provide a K-14 system (two years community college free).
- Raise awareness of career pathways
- Improve work ethics, implement program in partnership with schools.
- Initiate pro-active business retention/expansion programs.
- Increase small business startups and growth.
- Continue working with Upstate Alliance.
- Create Building Development Program (Santee Cooper Fund)

- Enhance current business parks and sites.
- Conduct infield analysis on land available around county.
- Transfer ownership of all sites to Economic Development limiting county liability.
- Tackle blighted areas using zoning ordinances.
- Improve infrastructure of water and sewer.
- Market county using website.
- Positive talk of community.
- Bring unity and leadership to tourism using Abbeville Chamber of Commerce to promote the entire county.
- Develop recreation assets – create department
- Leadership development – requesting at least one member of a board or commission be under the age of 40.

Councilman Thomas requested further inquiry been done on residents under the age of 30. Chairman McClain requested Council review the plan and have any changes for the July Council meeting so as to approve the plan at the August County Council meeting.

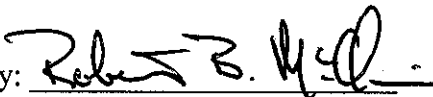
**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further items of discussion Councilman Norris made a motion to adjourn the workshop. Councilman McCord seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.


The workshop adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Done this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016

**Abbeville County Council**

By:   
Robert B. McClain, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:   
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council