

DACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee		
	8-May-20	8:30 Virtual
Meeting called by	Phil Gaffney	
Type of meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee	
Facilitator		
Note taker	Taylor Edwards	
Adjourned	9:20	
Attendees	Phil Gaffney, Jean Garniewicz, Hugh Hollar, Rick Evans, Ron Thigpen	
Staff/Guests	Robbie Bennett, Taylor Edwards, Anita Patel	
Meeting Agenda		
2 minute(s)	Phil Gaffney	
Discussion	A motion to approve the Agenda for the May 8, 2020 Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee Meeting and the Minutes for the January 10, 2020 meeting was made by Hugh Hollar. Second: Jean Garniewicz. The motion carries unanimously (5-0).	
Conclusions	5/8/20 Agenda and 1/10/20 Minutes approved	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Minutes of Previous Meeting		
>1 minute(s)	Phil Gaffney	
Discussion	See above section.	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Old Business		
0 minute(s)	None	
Discussion	None	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A

New Business		
40 minute(s)	Taylor Edwards	
Discussion	<p>Taylor Edwards shared that starting with the COVID-19 update recovery strategy. The COVID-19 business support survey was discussed by Robbie and Taylor and the survey will be shared with the Committee electronically. Robbie shared important details need to be understood in the restaurant and retail industry in terms of current cash flow, supply chain disruption, payroll, Critical business-related needs, revenue loss related to Masters, hospitality industry, business loss and closures that may become permanent, rent and building mortgages all issues of concern at the moment. Taylor spoke of the concerns expressed by businesses in terms of reopening safely with social distancing in retail, restaurant, manufacturing, how do they get PPE, thermometers, etc. *A virtual meeting was held with Aiken County, Augusta, Augusta Metro Chamber and their feedback in regards to businesses re-opening and how many are waiting for demand to pick back up. A major concern for businesses is related to finding ways to make the reopening safe for employees, as well as customers.</p> <p>The Columbia County Recovery Task Force has representation from key members of the community including the Board of Education, the County, the Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was a consensus that the survey that was initially sent out to businesses was good for when the pandemic started but now there will need to be a new survey sent out on "recovery". The survey will collect information on how many businesses applied for and received a PPP loan, layoffs/reduction in work force, understanding loan forgiveness, employee retention and new programs for retention strategies. He stated that lenders are awaiting guidance from the SBA on loans and loan forgiveness. Robbie said getting in front of all of the businesses in Columbia County will a task and asked for Board support in reaching out to local businesses. There will be a retooling needed of our employee base. The workforce study with Garner economics is almost complete but has to be refocused as well as the pandemic started in midst of the study. March had 3.8% unemployment in Columbia County. April has seen unemployment numbers rise by 1500 in Columbia County. *Taylor shared that many of the projects and programs discussed in the minutes from the January meeting have been put on hold. The CTAE competition as well as conversation in regards to the existing industry baseball game. The existing industry video is to be sent to the board by email for their feedback.</p>	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Updates		
0 minute(s)	None	
Discussion		
Conclusions		
Action Items		Deadline
None	N/A	N/A
Adjournment		9:20



Conclusions	Motion to adjourn: Jean Garniewicz. Second: Ron Thigpen. Motion carries unanimously (5-0)		
Next meeting: July 10, 2020	DACC Conference Room B	All	