
Fayetteville-Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation

Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2026 / 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
201 Hay Street, Suite 401-A
Fayetteville, NC 28301

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairwoman Kathryn Cox (virtual), Vice Chair Timothy Bryant (virtual), Treasurer Bill Hedgepeth, County Chairman Kirk deViere, Kristie Allen, Dr. Brian Krakover (virtual), Josh Choi (virtual)

Ex-Officios Present: N/A

Members Absent: Secretary Carl Manning, Mayor Mitch Colvin, City Manager Dr. Doug Hewett (ex-officio), County Manager Clarence Grier (ex-officio), Dr. Mark Sorrells (ex-officio)

Staff Present: Robert Van Geons, Rob Patton, Brittany Odom, Chela Scott, Greg Moore

Visitors/Guest: N/A

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Treasurer Bill Hedgepeth called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

Quorum: Yes.

2.0 Approval of/or Adjustments to the Agenda

Action: County Chairman Kirk deViere made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kristie Allen.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3.0 Organizational Business

3.1. Approval of January 8, 2026, Minutes

Action: Kristie Allen made a motion to approve the January 8, 2026, minutes. The motion was seconded by County Chairman Kirk deViere.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3.2. Approval of December 2025 and January 2026, Financials

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Treasurer Bill Hedgepeth informed the group that the audit should be back soon, and everything looks good so far. County Chairman Kirk deViere asked about the County's funding, and Robert Van Geons informed him that 100% of the County's funding has been received.

Action: County Chairman Kirk deViere made a motion to approve the December 2025 and January 2026, financials. The motion was seconded by Kristie Allen.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3.3. Opportunities for Board Participation

Robert presented the following opportunities for the Board's participation: Greater Fayetteville Chamber Annual Awards (Feb. 26th), GFBJ Power Breakfast (Mar. 4th), FDI Stakeholder Session (Mar. 4th), and the NC DOL Annual Safety Awards (May 19th)

4.0 Program of Work Update

Robert Van Geons thanked the board members who filled out the Board Satisfaction Survey, and reminded those who didn't to please do so. Following that, he went over follow ups from the Board's Strategy Session: Board survey/interest form, marketing flyers, existing industry survey, lost projects review, and last year's balanced scorecard.

Robert also reviewed the Board's priority on programmatic goals, with the top three being: Buildout/Launch of HR Talent Portal, Next Generation Workforce Study, and Develop Sites in Major Corridors (Extend Infrastructure). Additionally, Robert provided the Board with information on items in the works and asked how they would like to host Board meetings moving forward. County Chairman Kirk deViere mentioned having the first meeting of the quarter focused on organizational business, then the last two meetings would be dedicated to strategic initiatives. Nobody was opposed to that suggestion.

Lastly, Robert shared background information with the Board on what makes Cumberland County a Tier 1 County. He laid out the four economic indicators that are evaluated in the ranking process, which include 1. Adjusted Property Tax Base per Capita 2. Median Household Income 3. Unemployment Rate 4. Population Growth. Robert showed the group that Cumberland County ranks above the Tier 1 threshold on some categories but the average is still within the Tier 1 rankings.

4.1. Project Pipeline – Rob Patton presented the Board with the Project Pipeline. The FCEDC has generated 23 projects and hosted 8 client visits since January 1, 2026.

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4.2. Major Project Developments

Rob Patton informed the group of the various project types coming through, such as drones, ATVs, transmission cables, and pharmaceuticals.

Project Deep Dive:

Rob Patton reported that Project Elsinore is a Canadian book distributor looking at 4800 Corporation Drive, and they are working with the state on potential incentives. Project Forerunner is a Taiwanese drone battery manufacturer and will be back to visit soon. Project Tight is a home fabrics manufacturer and distributor looking at a facility in Hope Mills. Project Double Green is a South African equipment manufacturer and will be visiting sometime in March.

Lost Projects:

Rob Patton presented to the Board reasons why some projects were lost.

- Project Electric: Could not meet natural gas requirements.
- Project Steppenwolf: Lost to SC. Workforce concerns.
- Project Icicle: Project cancelled.
- Project Flow: Lost to TN. Proximity to customers.
- Project Input: Could not meet power requirement (50 MW < 18 mo.)

5.0 Reports and Analytics

5.1. Marketing & Communications – Brittany Odom highlighted Marketing Updates and Upcoming Events.

Marketing Updates:

- Hosted Public Data Center Information Session – January 29th
- Attended NCSE Industrial Brokers Economic Briefing – January 29th
- Attended SelectUSA Roadshow in Netherlands & Belgium – February 9th to 11th

Ongoing Projects:

- Working with ECU on hosting NCCED Course in May
- Building Existing Industry Spotlight Campaign
- Updating Marketing Strategy
- Reviewing TBJ, DCI, and Airport Advertising Proposals

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- Coordinating Infrastructure Summit with Utility Partners & Mayors

Upcoming Events:

- February 26 – 27: SIOR Spring Carolinas Conference – Charlotte, NC (Sponsoring & Attending)
- March 1 – 3: IEDC Leadership Summit – Washington D.C. (Attending)
- March 4: GFBJ Power Breakfast w/ Andreas Dressler - CFBG
- May 3 – 6: SelectUSA Investment Summit – Washington D.C. (Attending with EDPNC)
- May 11 – 14: XPONENTIAL – Detroit, MI (Attending with EDPNC)
- May 19: NC Department of Labor Annual Safety Awards – Crown Coliseum
- July 22 – 24: Consultant Connect International – United Kingdom (Sponsoring & Attending)
- August 26 – 28: SIOR Fall Carolinas Conference – Palmetto Bluff, SC (Sponsoring & Attending)
- TBD Fall 2026: Dallas Consultant Event (Attending with EDPNC)

5.2. Existing Industry Report – Chela Scott provided the Board with an update on the most recent industry visits.

- Taylor Express: Company is interested in expansion. FCEDC is assisting with identifying suitable sites/buildings.
- Yeadon Domes: Leadership team is currently in Minneapolis. Company anticipates operations to begin middle of 2026.
- CR England: Company is interested in expansion. FCEDC is supporting their search by identifying buildings suitable for their operations.
- Fay Block: Conducted follow-up conversations for a potential Building Reuse Grant.

6.0. Items for Board Discussion – Robert provided the Board with an update on the 611 W. Russell Street building. He showed that there has been positive progress on the floors, and he is having ongoing meetings with the GC on floorplans.

7.0 Director’s Round Table

There was no Director’s Round Table.

8.0 Closed Session

There was no Closed Session.

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9.0 Adjournment

Action: Kristie made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Kathryn Cox. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 A.M.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026