

# Richland Economic Development Board

## Joint Meeting Minutes

*Board Members Present: Mike Breininger- Chairman, Marty Brewer- County Board Representative, Todd Coppernoll -City Mayor, Ashley Oliphant - City Administrator, Kari Honer - Financial Rep., Al Lins – Agriculture Rep., Rufus Hauke – Non-Profit Rep., Bruce Roesler - Healthcare Rep., Clint Langreck - Richland County Administrator, Don Fieldhouse - Retail Rep. Director Jasen Glasbrenner - Present*  
*Board Member Absent: Eric Klang - Manufacturing Rep.*

**January 25th, 2023**

The Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Richland Center Common Council and the Richland Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, January 25th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Richland Center Community Center at 1050 N. Orange Street via in person and teleconference.

Committee members present included: Committee Chair Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Ingrid Glasbrenner, Marty Brewer, Danielle Rudersdorf, Don Seep, Carson Culver, Kevin Melby, Ashley Oliphant, Mike Breininger, Alan Lins, Bruce Roesler, Rufus Hauke, Karin Tepley, Scotty Wallace, Donald Fieldhouse, Kari Honer, Ryan Cairns, Tom McCarthy, Todd Coppernoll, Clinton Langreck with Melanie Walter by phone.

Absent: Julie Fleming, Chad Cosgrove, Linda Gentes, Melvin Frank from the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee. Susan Fruit from the Richland Center Common Council. Eric Klang from the Richland Economic Development Committee.

Department heads, staff and public present were: Richland County Administrative Assistant Cheryl Dull taking minutes.

- 1. Call to Order** – At 5:34 p.m. Mayor Coppernoll called the meeting of the Richland Center Common Council to order; Committee Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting of the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee to order; Mike Breininger call the meeting of the Richland Economic Development Board to order.
- 2. Proof of Notification** - Chair Murphy-Lopez and Mayor Coppernoll confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
- 3. Agenda Approval** - Moved by Supervisor Brewer to approve the agenda for the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee as presented, seconded by Supervisor Glasbrenner. Moved by Alderman Tepley to approve the agenda for the Richland Center Common Council as presented, seconded by Alderman Melby. Moved by Bruce Roesler to approve the agenda for the Richland Economic Development (RED) Board as presented, seconded by Alan Lins. All voting aye, motion carried.
- 4. Economic development agreement between Richland County and the City of Richland Center** - Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed how the meeting will be chaired and explained the items provided in the packet. Mayor Coppernoll updated everyone that at the last City Council meeting the City voted to withdraw from the Agreement between the County and City. He stated the City

felt that Jason Glasbrenner currently has multiple bosses and it has caused project delays. With the City withdrawing from the Agreement they feel it will create a better set up for Economic Development. Mike Breininger agreed with Mayor Coppernoll's statements but felt the RED Board is the one that Jason Glasbrenner should report to.

Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for comments or concerns from all committee and board members.

Administrator Langreck reviewed several projects that Glasbrenner has assisted with.

Supervisor Brewer stated this came forward due to budgeting issues but reiterated the County wants to support Richland Economic Development.

Alderman Culver stated the City has already acted on this and he is not sure what decisions or changes can be made tonight.

Alderman Wallace stated we don't want to miss any opportunities by having to go through chain of command.

Alderman Tepley stated there was a lot of people currently managing Economic Development and they looking for the most efficient way to do business.

Alderman Cairns stated the city fully supports working together but the City made the decision because they don't want to be reactive down the road.

Supervisor Glasbrenner supports Economic Development for both the County and the City and looks forward to work together to best achieve this.

Bruce Roesler feels we need to continue to sustain the Economic Development.

Don Fieldhouse feels the City taking over the Economic Development will affect the County but feels Jason will do well with the City.

Alan Lins felt the County has funded the position through 2023 and asked that the City take pause to see what happens with the shared revenue from the state to see if the partnership could continue. He requests that a strategic plan be put together for Economic Development.

Rufus Haucke feels we are in a very real exciting time in Richland County and may even need another Economic Development person.

Supervisor Seep feels that there is a management structural problem. We have been without an Economic Development person for several years. He would like to see the County and City continue to work together.

Mike Breininger stated in 2009 the Economic Development position went by the wayside and since that time the Community has struggled in development. He feels we have arrived at a place where the city and county are working better together than they have in years. He recommends a sub-committee that consists of 3 members from City, 3 from County and 3 from RED Board meet over the next several months to work on a plan.

Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed the clauses of cancellation in the contract between the City and the County. The position is still funded 60% by the County through 2023. He feels the City should continue with the contract between the City and the County through 2023.

Alderman Walters stated she felt there was sense coming from County meetings that the County would be defunding the Economic Development position in the future and didn't feel it was fair to Jason to continue to worry about funding, with that, the City has the funds and

chose to take the position on. Their intent is not to dissolve the RED Board but there needs to be discussion of what the REDs Board role will be in the future.

Mayor Coppernoll stated the city had no interest in getting out of Economic Development so that is why the City chose to take it on.

Supervisor Brewer added no matter how this goes, it is important for the county to remain active with the RED Board.

Murphy-Lopez questioned if the city takes over Economic Development 100% and Jasen reports to the city, how would projects outside the city work?

Alderman Culver feels the city would have good reason to evaluate the 30% portion from the County in the future. The City has 90 days to evaluate their decision, if they city so chooses, may decide to not give notice.

5. **Communication regarding Symons Recreation Complex operational deficiency** – No quorum, not action taken.
  
6. **Adjournment** – Moved to adjourn the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee at 6:28 p.m. by Supervisor Seep, 2nd by Supervisor Rudersdorf. Moved to adjourn the RED Board by Alan Lins, 2nd by Rufus Haucke. Moved to adjourn the City Council meeting by Alderman Wallace, 2nd by Tepley. All voting aye, motion carried.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheryl Dull  
Assistant to the County Administrator*