

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES Chattanooga City Council March 14, 2023

Call to Order

Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Chairman Darrin Ledford, Vice Chair Raquetta Dotley, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jenny Hill, Ken Smith, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, and Marvene Noel. Others present were Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist.

Others in Attendance

Economic Development: Jermaine Freeman, Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity, and Quentin Lawrence, Director of Workforce Strategy.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Chairman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (August 16, 2022) were approved as published.

Next week, March 21, 2023

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B-7C

Upon no questions or comments, these issues were closed.

Workforce Development

Councilwoman Coonrod opened the floor to Mr. Freeman, who introduced Mr. Lawrence, for a presentation regarding the Office of Workforce Development. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Brief history of the Office of Workforce Development:
 - Why they were founded
 - Who they serve
 - What services they provide and their continuing goals
 - How their mission aligns with the One Chattanooga initiative
- Partnerships cultivated internally and the results
- Partnerships cultivated externally and the results
- Disparities in underserved communities
- Possible solutions for removing barriers to employment
- Opportunities gained through BuildWithin and Persevere Now programs
- Strategies for implementing economic inclusion; possible pilot for talent development hubs in community centers
- Upcoming events

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Freeman responded to questions and comments from Chairman Ledford on the following:

- Summer job programs for youth
- Citizen engagement with the Office and job opportunities
- How services are advertise
- Equal access despite possible digital inequity

Upon no further questions or comments, the topic was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Coonrod adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.