

Council Agenda Report

Date: August 8, 2016

Submitted by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager *STJ*

SUBJECT: Joint Cambridge/Dorchester County/Hurlock Committee for business attraction

Recommendation: That Council authorize the Mayor to send letters to the Dorchester County Council President and Hurlock Mayor inviting participation in a joint project to attract industrial businesses to the County and formation of a joint committee to oversee the project.

Discussion:

City Council adopted Council Goals and Implementation plans as part of the FY 2017 budget process. For the goal of Economic Development, Council approved Implementation Action No. 11: Develop industrial business marketing project under joint City/County committee. This action plan includes:

1. A project that inventories available properties, develops a marketing plan and brochure that markets the properties in Cambridge, Hurlock, and the County, contracts a real estate broker with a successful track record at marketing industrial space in the region.
2. Formation of an oversight committee of City, County and Hurlock representatives – public and private to set goals, guide implementation, monitor progress, and keep the involved jurisdictions informed.

City and County Economic Development staff have been working on this project, identifying potential properties and also determining inhibitors to their marketability. It is time to start putting in place the oversight committee by sending a letter to the County and to Hurlock inviting commitment to the project and formation of the oversight committee.

The proposed structure and duties of the Committee are recommended as follows:

City/County/Hurlock Industrial Business Attraction Project Oversight Committee

- Informal – meeting schedule to be determined by the Committee
- Members (proposed):
 - Cambridge Mayor or 1 City Commissioner
 - County Council President or 1 County Council Member
 - Hurlock Mayor or 1 City Council Member

- 2 citizens with business and/or economic development expertise selected by each jurisdiction
- Duties:
 - Develop project goals and present to respective jurisdictions for confirmation;
 - Provide direction to City and County staff members on the formation of the joint project;
 - Monitor implementation and report to respective jurisdictions as to progress.
- Staff: County and Cities Economic Development Staff

A draft letter is attached.

[Mr. Ricky Travers, President, Dorchester County Council]

[Ms. Joyce A. Spratt, Mayor, Town of Hurlock]

SUBJECT: Joint Economic Development Project

Dear....

The City of Cambridge invites the Dorchester County and the Town of Hurlock to join in an industrial business attraction project. We have made this a priority through our Council Goals process and believe that economic development efforts can be more successful through collaboration.

Cambridge and Hurlock are fortunate to have land, buildings, water and sewer capacity as well as available work forces to attract industrial businesses. Through a collaborative effort, we can market our County and cities. We suggest that an oversight committee made up of representatives of each elected body plus private individuals with business and economic expertise can guide this process.

We sincerely hope you will join us in an effort that builds Dorchester County's economic future. We invite you to a formation meeting to discuss and refine this project plan on _____.

I look forward to your considered response.

Sincerely,

Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor

cc: Dorchester County Council
Jeremy Goldman, County Manager
Town of Hurlock City Council
John Avery, Hurlock Town Administrator
Cambridge City Council
Sandra Tripp-Jones, Cambridge City Manager