



## Economic Development Advisory Council

### Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (SCC)

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Matthew Cassidy		X	Michael Gorman	X	
Eric Myers		X	Jack Swain		X
Michelle Griscom		X	April Venable		X
Joseph Crevino	X		Ken Robell	X	
Lou Pasquale		X	Jennifer Jones (Chair)	X	
Julie Johnson		X	Julie Acton (Vice-Chair)		X
Jim Pfeiffer	X		Rebecca Iacovone		X
Mark Valente	X		Carey Italiano	X	
Gunar Bergholz	X		Sean Sepsey	X	
Megan Flinn	X		Jake Buganski		X
Ed Ramsay	X				
Paul Collier	X				
Sean Brown		X			

***Meeting started at 4.30pm***

#### WELCOME

- Jennifer Jones was unanimously elected as chair.
- Julie Action was unanimously elected as vice-chair.

#### COUNTY UPDATE

- Sean gave an update about the Film & Arts Festival. We are looking for volunteers to help for that event in any capacity.
- Sean also gave an update on the progress with the glass factory. The owner has signed an MOU with the city. The city is working on a redevelopment agreement for the project.
- A brewery was recently approved to be built right on rt 49 in Quinton.
- An individual is looking to build a brewery in Pennsville. The company's specifications on price, property size, and utilities is making it difficult to find a location for them.
- \$1.2 million of funding was awarded through SJTPO for Phase I of our bike path along the railroad (north from Woodstown to the county border)

#### MUNICIPAL/ STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

- Megan F notified us that Franklin Bank is celebrating their 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are currently promoting their first time homebuyer grant and their high interest savings accounts.
- Commissioner Ramsay mentioned that the county passed a 5-year tax abatement program for medical professionals looking to move and work in Salem County (Doctors and Nurses).

- Carey I gave us updates about SJEDD. They received \$140,000 from USEDA to use for grants. She provided an update on the 4-county transportation grant for the regional transportation study. The SJEDD board also approved a new application/ rubric for municipalities to apply for grants up to \$50,000.
- Joe C mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> warehouse in Pilesgrove is being built with no PILOT. It is a refrigeration warehouse. The township is looking at turning some of their housing with senior citizens living in them into affordable housing to meet their COAH requirement- waiting on the state to review.
- Commissioner Ramsay informed us that the county just had their reorganization meeting and is currently working on their 2026 budget.
- Jen J mentioned that the Salem County Chamber is having an Economic Development Forum to showcase vacant properties to developers throughout the county on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community College.
- Mike G introduced Candice Racite as the Community College's new hire for Business and Workforce Development. The college is still ranked #1 for best community colleges in South Jersey. The college is working on the nursing school expansion. Once complete the program could bring in up to 80 nurses in the program. The college is introducing a football and women's volleyball team. They are purchasing town's field in Carneys Point.
- Sean S mentioned that the county is conducting a sports tourism study and will loop in Mike to those conversations.
- Jim P mentioned that Woodstown Central Railroad (SMS) had 11,000 riders for their Santa trains this season. SMS built a new barn in Pilesgrove for freight storage (they are having trouble with the township with running electricity to the property). Freight car transportation is up this year, and SMS has been able to help their clients keep warehousing costs down by storing in Salem County.
- A discussion took place by various members about how the law surrounding railroad is unique and that municipalities and the county should consider hiring specialized professionals to advise them on issues pertaining to the railroad. This item will be brought up for discussion at a future meeting.

***Meeting adjourned at 5.35pm***