

**Urban County Council
Committee of the Whole Economic Development Committee Summary
January 17, 2012**

All Councilmember's except Kay and Martin were present for the meeting.

Councilmember Beard called the meeting to order at 1: 08 PM

1. Commerce Lexington Quarterly Activity Report

Bob Quick and Gina Greathouse presented a PowerPoint presentation on Commerce Lexington's Activities.

Several Councilmember's asked questions to Bob Quick and Gina Greathouse about the presentation and what the Local Government could do to help in recruiting employers to locate in Lexington and help retain current businesses to stay in Lexington. Ms. Greathouse said that Commerce Lexington and the city worked together constantly and it was an ongoing process.

Councilmember Stinnett asked that Commerce Lexington keep track of why businesses choose to locate in Lexington rather than other locations, so the city could know what we could do help. Ms. Greathouse said she would be glad to ask employers that question and keep track of that.

Councilmember Blues asked what could be done to help recruit more businesses in the Downtown area. Ms. Greathouse said they did do this, but sometimes there were issues of parking and enough space for an employer to locate in the downtown area.

Councilmember Ford asked what Commerce Lexington was doing to recruit Minority Owned Businesses. Ms. Greathouse said that Mr. Tyra with Commerce Lexington worked hard on this and met with businesses and consultants on trying to recruit minority owned businesses.

Councilmember Lane talked about Bucks for Brains. Ms. Greathouse said that the Bucks for Brains is a very good program and some businesses have said that they located in Lexington because of the Bucks for Brains program.

Councilmember Beard asked what Commerce Lexington was doing on the issue of the closing of the Post Office Distribution Center in Lexington. Kevin Atkins said that the city as well as our Congressman and Senators were trying to keep it open, but the final decision was up to the post office.

2. Introduction of Jeff Fugate as the New Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority.

Mr. Fugate talked about how excited he was to be back in Lexington and was looking forward to meeting with Councilmember's individually and discuss what they would like to see the Downtown Development Authority do for the City of Lexington.

Several Councilmember's welcomed Mr. Fugate.

Councilmember Beard adjourned the meeting.