

AGENDA  
MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 9:30 A.M.  
ELECTRONIC VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM MEETING

*Pursuant to State of Michigan Public Health Orders, this meeting will be held using remote participation via Zoom Meeting.*

*Public Link to meeting is [here](#). Passcode is **econ**.*

By telephone: 1 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 880 6967 3840 Passcode: 826090

*Public Comments may be submitted to the Board of Commissioners Deputy Clerk at [lisa\\_sanders@monroemi.org](mailto:lisa_sanders@monroemi.org) until 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 to be included as part of the public record for this meeting. Click [here](#) for the required format.*

*ASL Interpreters are available by request. Please click [here](#) to request an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be submitted by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021.*

Committee Members:

Tom Allen, Mike Baker, Barry Buschmann, Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans,  
Scot Laskey, Tim Janssen, Dan Minton, Tracy Oberleiter,  
Randy Richardville, David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker

Mission Statement

To Promote County-Wide Economic Growth and Employment Stability by Attracting  
and Retaining Business Development through Partnering With Government, Business,  
Industry and Labor, Which Will Better the Quality Of Life for All People  
Living and Working In Monroe County

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- (12/22/2020 - Organizational Meeting)
- V. STAFF & SPECIAL REPORTS
  - 1. Update report-Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team-Barry Buschmann
  - 2. Update report-Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Grow Strategically Pillar Team-Matt Vanisacker
  - 3. Monroe County Link Project-Matt Vanisacker
  - 4. MCBDC/ProMedica Matching Funds-Matt Vanisacker

5. Michigan Small Business Restart Program-Matt Vanisacker
6. Monroe County BDC Virtual Annual Investors Meeting -Wednesday, March 10, 2021 starting @ 8 a.m. Register online at [monroecountybdc.org](http://monroecountybdc.org)-Tracy Oberleiter
7. EDC Zoning & Planning Webinar-February 10, 2021-Barry Buschmann
8. COVID-19 Monroe County update report-Kim Comerzan

VI. COMMUNICATIONS—None

VII. INFORMATION—

1. Announcements/Information from Board members

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. CITIZENS TIME

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 8, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (Providing there is not a conflicting Chamber meeting)

Other 2021 meeting dates: September 14, 2021 & December 14, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 22, 2020

- I. Pursuant to Michigan Public Health Orders the December 22, 2020 an Organizational Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation was held electronically via Zoom Meeting. Chairman Oberleiter called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:
- PRESENT: Barry Buschmann, Kim Comerzan, Dan Minton, Tracy Oberleiter, David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker, Tom Allen (joined late due to technical difficulties), Scot Laskey (joined late due to technical difficulties), George Jondro (joined late)
- ABSENT: Stacey Goans, Tim Janssen (never joined due to technical difficulties) (both excused)

A quorum being present, the Committee proceeded to conduct business.

OATH OF OFFICE-

Newly reappointed members will need to make an appointment with Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, to have the Oath of Office administered in person (by following Covid19 safety protocols).

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Dan Minton, seconded by Barry Buschmann to approve the December 22, 2022 agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (09/08/2020 – Regular Meeting)

Motion by David Swartout, seconded by Matt Vanisacker to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented, and waive the reading thereof. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Chairman Oberleiter opened the floor for nominations for officers for 2021.

Barry Buschmann nominated Tracy Oberleiter for Chairman; David Swartout supported the nomination.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Motion by Barry Buschmann to cast a unanimous vote for Tracy Oberleiter for Chairman; supported by David Swartout.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Matt Vanisacker nominated Barry Buschmann for Vice-Chairman; Tracy Oberleiter supported the nomination.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Motion by Matt Vanisacker to cast a unanimous vote for Barry Buschmann for Vice-Chairman; supported by Tracy Oberleiter.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. ELECTION OF SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tracy Oberleiter nominated Tom Allen for Secretary/Treasurer; David Swartout supported the nomination.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Motion by Kim Comerzan to cast a unanimous vote for Tom Allen for Secretary/Treasurer; supported by David Swartout.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Motion by Tracy Oberleiter to cast a unanimous vote for Tom Allen for Secretary/Treasurer; supported by David Swartout.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VIII. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Update report-Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team-Barry Buschmann

- Prepare for Investment Pillar was merged into the existing Streamlining Development Task Force
- The Investment Pillar has been very active over the past year in spite of COVID, meeting (virtually) nearly every month to discuss the existing PDA's as well as new opportunities
- Working on the Memorandum of Understanding(s) with communities and land owners, continually updating and adding to the Streamlining Guide, as well as planning new events for elected officials and their planning and zoning committees.
- In 2021 will look at other PDA areas which may reach out further into the county, still with a focus along the I-75 corridor and the upcoming construction completion of the Gordie Howe Bridge.

- A subgroup of the Pillar group was formed in the past few months to focus on a specific Planning and Zoning meeting for February 2021
2. Planning & Zoning Webinar-February 10, 2021 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm-Barry Buschmann
    - Save the Date coming out-Encourage everyone to attend
    - Received funding from the MEDC which will be used for a Phase 1 study
    - All funding decisions will be made by January 31, 2021; Businesses that are partially closed are eligible to apply for \$15,000 and if fully closed they are eligible to apply for \$20,000
  3. Update report-Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Grow Strategically Pillar Team-Scot Laskey/Matt Vanisacker
    - Webpage should be up by March—[www.launch734.com](http://www.launch734.com)—to advance entrepreneurship
    - Working on building a network
    - Goal is for people to be pointed in the right direction for the right resources
  4. Monroe County Link Project-Matt Vanisacker
    - New Brand launched-No “in-person” event was held to launch it to the public
    - Michigan’s Cornerstone—merchandise available
    - 255 people who signed up to be ambassadors for the brand
    - Outreach to business community
    - Gateway & Beautification-Received grant to plant trees around Dixie Hwy. & I-75
    - Ideas for funding for the Link Plan are welcome
  5. MCBDC/ProMedica Matching Funds-Matt Vanisacker
    - New funding opportunity for matching funds-Hand held blower for indoor/outdoor use. Connected with MCCC for maker space
    - Young app developers still working on their project
    - Four projects so far
  6. COVID-19 Update by Kim Comerzan
    - Mailer went out today about what to do if you think you might have Covid or might have been exposed
    - 6514 positive cases as of today
    - 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months of pandemic=1242; last 3 months > 5200
    - Deaths are 114 currently
    - Health Department staff had trouble keeping up. Embarked on State’s assistance with tracing, etc.
    - 771.4 daily average of tests
    - More severe than in the summer
    - Up to 9 additional ICU beds acquired from Herrick Hospital
    - Discussion commenced and questions were answered about the vaccine

7. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-David Swartout
  - Thanked Kim and her team for all of their hard work
  - 2 new Road Commissioners appointed=Dan Minton and Bill Kipf
  - New Commissioners on Board of Commissioners=Sharon Lemasters and Randy Richardville
8. Labor Employment update-Dan Minton
  - Productive year for building trades despite Covid
  - Some scheduled projects have been postponed or rescheduled
  - He had more hours in 2020 than in 2019
9. Utility Update-Mike Baker
  - Gear up more in March-April 2021
  - Plenty of PPE for employees
  - Busy year in 2021--Replacement & New construction
  - Not many exposures of severe cases of employees
10. Automotive update-Tom Allen
  - Plants are opening up
  - Used car prices had increased but now they are dropping
  - Pickup trucks are in demand
  - Cadillac totally electric by 2027
  - What to do with the batteries that are toxic (cobalt)?
  - Manufacturers are cutting ties to China
  - Lots of supply issues during Covid
11. Monroe County BDC Annual Meeting via Zoom @ MCCC 11-12-20 Matt Vanisacker
  - 140 people attended the virtual meeting
- IX. COMMUNICATIONS-
  1. Letter dated November 2, 2020 from Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, regarding Board of Commissioner approval for reappointments of Mr. Barry Buschmann, Mr. Mike Baker and Mr. Timothy Janssen.
- X. INFORMATION –
  1. 2021 Meeting Schedule:  
March 9, June 8, September 14 & December 14 at 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise changed due to conflict with the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Koffee Klub schedule.
- XI. OLD BUSINESS –None
- XII. NEW BUSINESS—None
- XIII. CITIZENS TIME – None

XIV. NEXT MEETING –March 9, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Matt Vanisacker, seconded by David Swartout. Voice vote taken.  
Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 9:32 a.m. with no further  
business.