

# MINUTES

**December 13, 2023**  
**McMinnville Economic Vitality Leadership Council**  
**Regular Meeting**

**3:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**McMinnville, Oregon**

**Members Present:** Carson Benner, Mike Morris, Trena McManus, Chris Chenoweth, and John Dietz

**Members Absent:** Gerardo Ochoa, Michael Mulkey, Steve Patterson, Walt Gowell, Dani Chisholm, Heather Miller, Erin Stephenson, and Deven Paolo

**Staff Present:** Jody Christensen – Special Projects Manager, Jeff Towery – City Manager, Patty Herzog – McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, Heather Hadley Blank – McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, and Doris Towery – McMinnville Downtown Association

**Others Present:** Scott Unger – News-Register

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## 1. Call to Order

Chair Benner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

## 2. Action Items

- Business Assistance/Resiliency Grant (8212) Update

Special Projects Manager Christensen said she had been monitoring all the grants and one of the contractors was not going to be able to spend the contracted amount. There was \$166,000 available to be redeployed. The Committee had asked staff to look into a workforce development investment. Chemeketa Community College had been contacted as well as the Department of Administrative Services for a contract extension. They had applied for an extension and the application was considered complete. They had developed a draft contract with the college and an amendment to the MEDP contract and it would be taken to Council for approval on January 9, pending approval of the extension. She gave options if the extension was not approved and asked for direction on these options.

There was discussion regarding linking getting a grant award to also getting training, how the money had to be obligated if they did not get the extension by June 30, 2024, and the options presented by staff.

There was consensus to go with option 1, another round of business assistance grants.

### 3. Presentation

- Mid-Willamette Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

McRae Carmichael, Community and Economic Development Director for Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, said this plan ran from 2023 to 2028 and served as a guide for economic development in the area. She explained their Economic Development District and how she was looking to partner with the City on projects. She discussed the project purpose, content and sections of the plan, goals, themes, methods, Zoom workshops, key findings, implementation and implications, and next steps.

There was discussion regarding the key findings, infrastructure funding, regional collaboration, project list, grant writing and administration, master planning for the Innovation Campus, and contacts with the state legislature.

### 4. Rumor Mill

Chair Benner said Great Harvest had a new tenant that would open in February. McMinnville Downtown Association Director Towery discussed Third Street businesses. Councilor Chenoweth discussed the UGB expansion options.

### 5. Citizen Comments

None.

### 6. Committee Member Comments

None.

### 7. Staff Comments

None.

### 8. Adjournment

Chair Benner adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.