

# MINUTES

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**January 10, 2024**  
**McMinnville Economic Vitality Leadership Council**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

**Members Present:** Carson Benner, Mike Morris, Trena McManus, Steve Patterson, Heather Miller, Erin Stephenson, and Deven Paolo.

**Members Absent:** Chris Chenoweth, Dani Chisholm, Gerardo Ochoa, Michael Mulkey, John Dietz, and Walt Gowell.

**Staff Present:** Jody Christensen – Special Projects Manager, Patty Herzog – McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, Jeff Knapp – Visit McMinnville, and Doris Towery – McMinnville Downtown Association

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

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## 1. Call to Order / Introductions

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

## 2. Election of Officers

Carson Benner was elected as Chair and Mike Morris was elected as Vice Chair for 2024.

## 3. Minutes

- March 8, 2023

Committee member Morris moved to approve the March 8, 2023, minutes. The motion was seconded by Paolo and passed unanimously.

## 4. Discussion Items

- Business Assistance/Resiliency Grant (8212) Update

Special Projects Manager Christensen said the City Council approved by resolution the contract with Chemeketa Community College and the amended contract with MEDP. They had also received approval of the extension from the Department of Administrative Services. All of the money had to be appropriated by December 2024 and the programs

completed by December 2025. Chemeketa would be providing two programs, one a hospitality certification and the other a pre-apprentice certification.

- Innovation Campus Master Planning and Public Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis

Special Projects Manager Christensen shared the draft Innovation Campus RFP with the committee. She gave a background on the project and how it was viewed as the next employment center for the City. She explained the scope of work, funding, and timeline.

There was discussion regarding next steps, engagement with the property owners, subcontractor for marketing, estimated costs and grant funding, master planning process, deliverables, and need for flexibility in the design.

5. Rumor Mill

There was discussion regarding business remodeling and consolidation.

6. Citizen Comments

None.

7. Committee Member Comments

Chair Benner said he would contact committee members who had not been present lately. There was discussion regarding getting a member from Visit McMinnville and the City.

8. Staff Comments

None.

9. Adjournment

Chair Benner adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.