

Minutes of the 2024 CIC Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 18th, 2024
Family Christian Center, Defiance OH 43512

President Ben Nighswander called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Ben welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

Packets including the meeting's agenda, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, summary of Financials, & 2023 CIC Accomplishments were provided to the attendees. The minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were reviewed. There being no changes or corrections, Dave Figley moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ted Penner seconded the motion. All members present voted yes and the motion was carried.

Ben Nighswander recognized all elected officials in attendance, and thanked The Regional Growth Partnership and JobsOhio for sponsoring our annual meeting.

Mr. Dave Figley, Treasurer, presented the 2023 financials and reported that the 2023 financial compilation was not completed yet, but a temporary report was provided by Business Development & Operations Manager, Paige Johnson. The financial compilation will be given to the state auditor. CIC Treasurer David Figley talked about the CIC's financial soundness. He reviewed the 2023 Financial Statement, a report showing \$556,000 in assets. Dave offered any questions on the financial report. No questions presented. Sarah Tackett motioned to approve the financials. Commissioner Mick Pocratsky seconded the motion. All members present voted yes and the motion was approved.

Ben Nighswander explained the voting procedure for new board trustees, and indicated that ballots had been provided to voting members. He then highlighted the Defiance County CIC's mission and the growth that has been set in motion by the CIC. He thanked everyone for their investment and for attending the meeting. He then introduced the guest speaker, Darnita Bradley, Local Government Affairs And Engagement Manager for JobsOhio.

Erika Willitzer greeted the crowd and gave a report on the current initiatives the CIC are doing. She reported wins for Defiance County in 2023 totaling \$230 million dollars. Some of the specific wins cited were investments in the Defiance General Motors plant; Defi Foods International, a Canadian chocolate manufacturer; Arps Dairy's new Defiance headquarters; Geenex's renewable solar project in Hicksville; Pontiac Logistics expansion in Defiance; and the new Keller Logistics headquarters in Defiance. Willitzer also highlighted Defiance's selection as one of the top 10 micropolitan cities in the United States for business. She then turned attention to the new MetalX aluminum recycling facility set to break ground in Enterprise Industrial Park in the fall of 2024. Next was the announcement of the new Featured Housing Sites section of the Defiance County Economic Development website, which spotlights lots that are ready for new home construction. Erika then reported on the progress of the Four Flags Of Freedom project, which hopes to dedicate 2 of the 4 American flag sites along US 24 on June 14th, 2024.

Paige Johnson handed out the Defiance County Economic Business Awards.

- Defiance County Business of the Year: Grube, Inc.
- Excellence in Innovation: General Motors Defiance
- Best Place to Work: APG
- Best in the Industry: Northwest Real Estate Services
- Best New Business: Choice Physical Therapy
- Family-Owned Business of the Year: ARC Solutions
- Veteran-Owned Business of the Year: Dari Delite
- Downtown Business of the Year: Crystal Fountain Park-Kuhn Family

At the conclusion of this year's meeting, Ben Nighswander announced the results of the election of new board members and trustees. Public elected officials were: Defiance Mayor Mike McCann, Defiance County Auditor Jill Little, Hicksville Mayor Michael Barth, Defiance County Commissioner Mick Pocratsky, Defiance County Township Association member Kyle Weber, and Sherwood Mayor David Weaner. New private elected official board members were Taylor Klepper of Klepper Building, Robert Langford of First Energy Group, Tiffany Rockhold of OhioMeansJobs, and Michael Wahl of Keller Logistics Group. Ben asked if there were any questions or comments about the election. No comments or questions were made. Ben then invited the new CIC Board President, Dave Figley, to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am by Dave Figley.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hire
Corporate Secretary