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4 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

6 **Champaign County Environment** **DATE:** **February 23, 2006**
7 **& Land Use Committee** **TIME:** **6:45 p.m.**
8 **Champaign County Brookens** **PLACE:** **Meeting Rm. 2**
9 **Administrative Center** **Brookens Administrative Center**
10 **Urbana, IL 61802** **1776 E. Washington Street**
11 **Urbana, IL 61802**

15 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jan Anderson, Chris Doenitz, Nancy Greenwalt (VC), Brendan McGinty, Jon
16 Schroeder, Steve Moser, Ralph Langeheim (C)

19 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tony Fabri, Patricia Busboom

21 **STAFF PRESENT:** John Hall (Director of Planning & Zoning)

23 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Casey Rooney (Regional Planning EDC); Craig Rost (City of Champaign
24 Deputy City Manager for Development); Barbara Wysocki (County Board
25 Chair)

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29 **1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

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31 The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

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33 **2. Approval of Agenda**

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35 **Mr. Moser moved, seconded by Mr. McGinty to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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37 **3. Public Participation**

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39 None

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41 **4. *Amendment to Joint Champaign County-City of Champaign Enterprise Zone***

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43 **Mr. Doenitz moved, seconded by Mr. Schroeder to approve the amendment to the Joint Champaign**
44 **County-City of Champaign Enterprise Zone. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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46 Ms. Wysocki asked that Mr. Rooney attend this meeting to give an overview of the proposed amendment.

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48 Ms. Greenwalt asked if Mr. Rooney will be at the full board meeting.

1 Mr. Rooney answered he would be at the full board meeting.

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3 Ms. Wysocki stated when she attended the caucus there were some questions asked about where
4 the enterprise zone is, what are the benefits of having an enterprise zone and is there a
5 downside to having an enterprise zone.

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7 Mr. Rooney stated that he is the County Board Enterprise Zone Administrator. Mr. Rooney said the
8 amendment proposed a 100% abatement if at least twenty jobs are retained and this will make the county
9 more competitive with other communities. Mr. Rooney said right now, we have about 50% abatement on
10 sales tax and property tax. We are asking for 100% abatement. Mr. Rooney said it is easier to retain a
11 company than to try to bring in a new company in a community. Mr. Rooney said this is an economic
12 development incentive that we're asking the County Board to approve. He also explained that the purpose
13 for this incentive is to encourage existing companies in the community to grow.

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15 Craig Rost, Deputy City Manager for Development for the City of Champaign stated that often times a
16 company will relocate rather than expand which means job erosion in the community. With this incentive
17 we hope to retain these jobs. Mr. Rost went on to say that about 70% of our job growth comes from business
18 expansion. He also explained that the incentive we presently have is 50% on building material sales tax and
19 property tax and increasing the incentive to 100% will make us more competitive with other communities.

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21 Mr. Rost said that most of the enterprise zone businesses are located in the City of Champaign however
22 there was one that was outside the city.

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24 Mr. Rooney said we had approved the expansion on the enterprise zone on Staley Road. so some things will
25 affect the county.

26

27 Mr. Langeheim asked if there was less incentive for companies with less than 20 employees.

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29 Mr. Rost answered for less than 20 employees the incentive will be 50%.

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31 **5. Other Business**

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33 None

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35 **16. Adjournment**

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37 Mr. Langeheim declared the meeting adjourned at. 6:57pm.

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39 Respectfully submitted,

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41 Secretary to the Environment and Land Use Committee