

Coffee County Strategic Planning Committee

April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Claude Morse, Lynn Sebourn, Jimmy Hollandsworth, Ron Fuller, Brent Willis, Robert Norfleet, David Young, Rick Soucy, Casey Rhoton

Members Absent: Dennis Hunt

Guests: AEDC Commander, Colonel Randel Gordon

Chairman Sebourn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The committee met with AEDC Commander Col Gordon to discuss relations between AEDC and AEDC impacts to Coffee County Growth

Topics discussed included:

- Review of law enforcement and first responder cooperation between AEDC and Coffee County Government. Col. Gordon reported excellent cooperation and working relations between AEDC and Coffee County first responders
- Col. Gordon discussed upcoming investments at AEDC that will result in a very large increase in jobs at AEDC. This is a result of increased investments in hypersonic testing. This increase will be primarily in the contractor workforce. Col Gordon emphasized that there are 3 primary concerns AEDC regarding the growth of AEDC
 - HOUSING. AEDC employees and new hires are having trouble locating housing in Coffee County in proximity to AEDC. Many AEDC employees are living in Murfreesboro and commuting down I-24. Housing appears to be very limited. Many new employees are looking for modern apartments with amenities. Such apartments are in short supply in Coffee County
 - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. AEDC has an increasing need for skilled labor. Prospects of increasing skilled labor training and possible development of a new Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) facility in Coffee County were discussed.
 - CHILDCARE. AEDC employees are in need of childcare facilities which provide educational childhood development. The preference would be to have facilities located near AEDC.
- Col Gordon was asked about impacts to AEDC from megasite development and possible I-24 lane expansion. He stated that I-24 expansion would be beneficial to AEDC because of the better access for employees and equipment transfer to the base. Thought that megasite development could help with needed infrastructure for the area that would benefit AEDC.
- Col Gordon also expressed that AF is trying to restore and improve public relations with communities after being somewhat closed off from communities in recent years (due to 911 and COVID). Col Gordon is seeking opportunities to engage with the local community.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.