

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
 2200 Camp Branch Road  
 Waynesville, NC 28786  
 January 14, 2023

**Subject:** Economic Development Commission --> Economic Development Council --> ???

Confused about what is going on with the Economic Development Council? So am I. So I found this little bit of history in the 2018 Certified Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Page 60.

**Related Organizations** - Until July 1, 2014, the Haywood County Board of Commissioners appointed the members of the Haywood County Economic Development Commission (the “EDC”). In July 2014, the commissioners dissolved the EDC and merged it into the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is a separate non-profit organization. The Commissioners appropriated \$223,059 per year to the Chamber of Commerce for economic development activities from June 30, 2014 through June 30, 2018 and have budgeted that same amount in the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget.

That coincides with the Adopted Haywood Budget, Fiscal Year 2020/21, page 94.

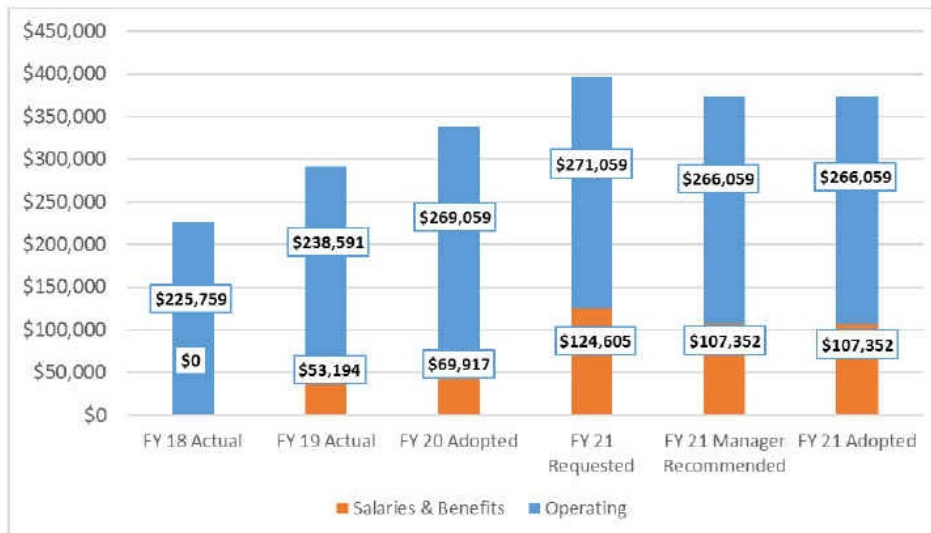
## Economic Development

### Summary

The Haywood County Economic Development funds go towards economic development projects and partnerships that positively influence the attraction, retention, and building of business in the county with the purpose of stimulating economic growth. These partners include the Economic Development Council, Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, and Asheville/Buncombe Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

### Budget Details

| EXPENDITURES        | FY 18 Actual | FY 19 Actual | FY 20 Adopted | FY 21 Requested | FY 21 Manager Recommended | FY 21 Adopted | FY 21 Adopted Over/(Under) FY 20 Adopted | % Change |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|----------|
| Salaries & Benefits | \$0          | \$53,194     | \$69,917      | \$124,605       | \$107,352                 | \$107,352     | \$37,435                                 | 53.54%   |
| Operating           | \$225,759    | \$238,591    | \$269,059     | \$271,059       | \$266,059                 | \$266,059     | -\$3,000                                 | -1.11%   |
| Total               | \$225,759    | \$291,785    | \$338,976     | \$395,664       | \$373,411                 | \$373,411     | \$34,435                                 | 10.16%   |



There are rumors abounding that the Economic Development Council was again disbanded in early 2022.

WTF? Is Haywood Taxpayer funding still being poured into this entity? So many questions keep bubbling up.

- Where did this funding come from, i.e. what budget line item or Chart of Account?
- What is the path this money took?
- Did this funding go to the Haywood Chamber of Commerce?
- Did the Haywood Chamber of Commerce funnel this money to the Economic Development Council?
- Did the Economic Development Council or Chamber of Commerce move all or some of this money to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce?
- Who is at the middle of this incestuous cesspool?

At this point in time, three (3) people have been tentatively identified/involved that should have an awareness of what is going on here:

- **David Francis** (pick a title), the center of the universe of everything,
- CeCe Higgs, President of the Chamber of Commerce,
- **Scott McLeod**, past chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Recall that I have a Request for Public Information into **Bryant Morehead**, dated 1/10/2023.

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Subject: Request for Public Information - County revamps economic development program - contracts.

Date: Tue, 10 Jan 2023 23:09:03 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Bryant Morehead <bryant.morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>, Amy Stevens <Amy.Stevens@haywoodcountync.gov>, Kristian Owen <kristian.owen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>

CC: CeCe Higgs <chiggs@haywoodchamber.com>, Terry Ramey <terry.ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Tommy Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>

Mr. Morehead,

Please refer to the following article by Vicki Hyatt, "County revamps economic development program", 7/29/2020,

[https://www.themountaineer.com/news/county-revamps-economic-development-program/article\\_994f6dce-cca9-11ea-b243-63809c5c7e82.html](https://www.themountaineer.com/news/county-revamps-economic-development-program/article_994f6dce-cca9-11ea-b243-63809c5c7e82.html).

Two (2) contracts are mentioned:

- One in 2018, a three year contact signed between commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce,
- A second, an amended contract, signed in July of 2020.

Please provide a copy of both of those "signed" contracts. This is a Request for Public Information.

Also provide a copy of funds delivered to the Chamber of Commerce during those contract periods, to present, a period of five (5) years, so that I can compare it with IRS Form 990 for the year 2020 - "Greater Haywood County Chamber", and prior Form 990's.

[2020 Form 990, Haywood County Chamber of Commerce \(now on the radar\), CeCe Higgs President. Check out the Directors... 1/7/2023...](#)

Thank you, Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Once this information has been provided, we will start to gain an understanding of this money flow.

The nagging question for all of us, is what benefit have Haywood County Taxpayers received from all of this funding, and if none, should this funding be cut off?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer