



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO AUTHORIZE ELIGIBILITY FOR PROJECT RODEO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GASTON COUNTY LOCAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Project RODEO is considering a total investment of \$13.1 million in machinery & equipment over a period of three calendar years to establish an technical training center in Gaston County, which includes the installation of machinery and equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the firm intends to create at least twenty-three new jobs (23) expecting to pay an average annual wage of \$82,000 with the current average annual wage for Gaston County being \$39,852; and,

WHEREAS, the firm intends to provide three, 15 week regularly scheduled technical training terms each year with each having approximately 128 students with the potential to increase in number with other courses to be offered that could generate up to 32 students per course and these courses are offered throughout the year creating additional extended stays at local lodging facilities; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes a County to undertake an economic development project by providing grants for the location of industry; and,

WHEREAS, the company's North American Industrial Classification System number does not currently qualify Project RODEO to apply for a standard grant; the Gaston County Board of Commissioners finds that it is in the best interests of the County to make eligible Project RODEO for to apply for the Local Investment Grant Program for all the initial and future net new taxable investments which would take place on a site, within the city limits of Mount Holly, undergoing environmental remediation; and,

WHEREAS, potentially increasing property, sales and room tax revenue based upon Project RODEO choosing to locate its technical training center in Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, this proposed eligibility will be incorporated into a detailed economic development agreement (EDA), between Project RODEO, the County and the City of Mount Holly, so as to induce the company to provide good job opportunities and capital investment which will enhance the County's ability to attract additional business and industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners:

The Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute any documents necessary to complete this EDA for Project RODEO and to provide eligibility to participate in the Local Investment Grant Program administered by Gaston County.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFrale	BHovls	TKelgher	TPhilbeck	FWorley	Vote
2019-273	10/22/2019	BH	AF	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Economic Development Commission Board Action

File #: 19-421

Commissioner Chad Brown - EDC - To Authorize a Resolution Providing Eligibility for Project RODEO to Participate in the Local Investment Grant Program Over the Course of Their Multi-phased Investment for a Standard Level One Grant

STAFF CONTACT

Donny Hicks - Economic Development - 704-825-4046

BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Project RODEO proposes to lease a building, to be constructed on the site known as the former Duke Energy Riverbend Power Plant in Mount Holly. Project RODEO intends on establishing a technical training facility by investing approximately thirteen million one hundred thousand dollars (\$13.1 million) of investment in machinery and equipment. Project RODEO expects to complete this multi-phased investment on or before December 31, 2023. At least 23 new employment positions, with an estimated average annual wage of \$82,333, which exceeds the 2019 Gaston County average annual wage of \$39,852, are to be created.

The company's North American Industrial Classification System number does not currently qualify Project RODEO to participate in the Local Investment Grant Program. The EDC request is for Gaston County Board of Commissioners to provide eligibility for Project RODEO to participate in the Local Investment Grant Program over the course of their multi-phased investment. All of the details of this local incentive grant proposal will be incorporated into an economic development agreement involving the County, City of Mount Holly and company.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Project RODEO, is a part of a major technical services provider to the energy sector of the global economy. The energy industry makes modern life possible, but few realize how intertwined the electric power, pipeline, industrial and communications industries are in our daily lives. Duke Energy has acquired Piedmont Natural Gas and has fiber capabilities. This proposed technical training center will be in complete partnership with Duke Energy on a "brownfield" site under environmental remediation. The firm intends to provide three, 15 week regularly scheduled technical training terms annually with each having approximately 128 students with the potential to increase in number. Other courses are to be offered that could generate up to 32 students per course. These courses are offered throughout the year creating additional extended stays at local lodging facilities. Project RODEO offers the County and the City of Mount Holly the potential to attract a highly technical firm which will establish a training center for the energy sector. The redevelopment of a "brownfield" site with a facility housing 23 fulltime jobs paying a projected average annual wage of \$82,000 compared to Gaston County's current 2019 average annual wage of \$39,852.

Gaston County is the only site in NC being considered for this project.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution