

During the public hearing, Mr. Kevin Franklin, who is the President of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation, reported that innovative Business Growth, LLC d/b/a Founder's Hemp, an integrated hemp company based in Asheboro, is considering an expansion with new job creation within Asheboro and Randolph County.

Founder's Hemp provides expert assistance to its network of farmers and processes North Carolina grown hemp into usable products. It is among the first hemp companies established in North Carolina and has been operating in Asheboro since 2017. Because of its rapid growth, the company intends to renovate a portion of the facility it occupies in south Asheboro in order to accommodate new equipment and processes.

With this project, Founder's Hemp will install five new clean rooms in existing product storage space in order to facilitate enhanced processing. It is committed to an investment of at least \$310,000 for the expansion project, with an additional related investment of approximately \$50,000 for machinery and equipment. Additionally, the project will result in the creation of fifteen (15) new full-time jobs and the retention of the current 62 positions. The new positions will pay an average annual wage of \$35,667.

During his presentation, Mr. Franklin reported that Founder's Hemp is eligible for a Building Reuse Grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$150,000 (\$10,000 per job) to assist with the renovation expenses. The City of Asheboro would serve as the grant applicant since the program requires the applicant to be a unit of local government.

The grant program also requires a 5% local government cash match which would total \$7,500 based on the \$150,000 grant request. The Randolph County Economic Development Corporation will formally request that the County of Randolph participate in providing an equal share of the match, \$3,750 per unit of government. The submission deadline for the grant application is August 29, 2019.

Mr. Franklin recommended that the City Council of the City of Asheboro adopt a resolution authorizing the application by the City of Asheboro for a Building Reuse Grant to support the renovation of an Asheboro facility by innovative Business Growth, LLC d/b/a Founder's Hemp.

Mr. Owen George, who is with the Small Business Administration, presented comments in support of the economic development project. Additionally, Mr. Bobby Crumley and Ms. Jamie Crumley of Founder's Hemp presented comments in support of the project.

After no other speakers asked to be heard during the public hearing, Mayor Smith inquired of the Council Members as to what action they would like to take.

The Council Members concurred with Mr. Franklin's recommendation. Upon motion by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Moffitt, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution. Council Members Bell, Burks, Moffitt, Redding, and Snuggs voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 32 RES 8-19

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF ASHEBORO FOR A BUILDING REUSE GRANT TO SUPPORT THE RENOVATION OF AN ASHEBORO FACILITY BY INNOVATIVE BUSINESS GROWTH, LLC D/B/A FOUNDER'S HEMP

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Commerce administers grants and loans to units of local government such as the City of Asheboro (the "City") to support economic development activity that will lead to the creation of new full-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, innovative Business Growth, LLC d/b/a Founder's Hemp, which is a North Carolina limited liability company, (the "Company") has a leased facility at 720 Industrial Park Avenue in Asheboro; and

WHEREAS, due to past success and expected future growth, the Company has developed a renovation project for its Industrial Park Avenue facility that will allow for increased production capacity; and

