



## AGENDA ACTION FORM

### **Consideration of a Resolution Requesting Sullivan County Economic Development Partnership Pursue a Working Partnership with the Appalachian Highlands Economic Development Partnership, Inc.**

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

From: Chris McCartt, City Manager *CM*

Action Form No.: AF-72-2023  
Work Session: March 20, 2023  
First Reading: March 21, 2023

Final Adoption: March 21, 2023  
Staff Work By: McCartt/Rowlett  
Presentation By: C. McCartt

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#### **Recommendation:**

Approve the resolution.

#### **Executive Summary:**

Kingsport has been a member and supporter of NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership since its inception in 2005. Currently, Kingsport provides more than \$450,000 annually to NETWORKS' operations and debt service, which represents 31% of the overall annual contributions to the organization's budget. Additionally, Kingsport appoints 4 citizens to the 13-member board that is tasked with evaluating and approving complex economic development decisions which have a lasting, positive impact on our city, county, and the entire Northeast Tennessee region. Furthermore, city staff has and continues to work alongside the NETWORKS staff, focusing on traditional economic development efforts aimed at recruiting and retaining industry in Kingsport.

In February of 2020, the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen agreed we must evaluate ways to diversify our economic development efforts. This decision allowed staff to begin focusing efforts towards medical, technology, entrepreneurship, higher education and eco-tourism, while still focusing on traditional economic development projects. Partners such as SyncSpace, Holston Business Development Center, Visit Kingsport, Create Appalachia, the Northeast Tennessee Economic Development HUB, East Tennessee State University, Northeast State Community College, and others have partnered with Kingsport to explore and achieve many of our goals.

The ever-changing economy has taught us that diversifying our economic development approach is critical towards ensuring we continue to grow as a city, county and region. Kingsport realized the importance of taking a much broader approach to achieve these efforts by collaborating with multiple public and private entities. To that end, we are requesting, through the approval of this resolution, that the NETWORKS board resume meaningful conversations with the Northeast Tennessee Economic Development HUB to develop a working partnership between the two entities. Finally, we request a presentation be made to the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen regarding these efforts no later than June 20, 2023.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Resolution

	Y	N	O
Cooper	—	—	—
Duncan	—	—	—
George	—	—	—
Montgomery	—	—	—
Olterman	—	—	—
Phillips	—	—	—
Shull	—	—	—