



### **Partnership with the Haines City Economic Development Council, Inc.**

The Haines City Economic Development Council ("Council") is a private, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida and is open to individuals or organizations with an interest in economic development of the City, Polk County and the State of Florida. The Council is made up primarily of companies, individuals, post-secondary education institutions, and workforce development boards. The Council provides the City of Haines City economic development services that provide an overall benefit to prospective and existing businesses that locate within the City and the central Florida area.

The Council is managed by a Board of Directors made up of public and private sector members. The Council's focus is on the development, marketing, consulting, and coordinating of economic opportunities that lead to jobs and ad valorem growth. The Council performs activities to encourage, support, and promote economic development and growth opportunities in the City of Haines City, Florida. All decisions regarding eligibility for membership with the Council shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, with each such decision to be final and binding.

The Council is committed to quality job retention and creation from the public and private sectors in Haines City. Our mission is to retain, expand and recruit employers. The Council plays a significant role in ensuring the continued economic prosperity of our community.

#### **Why Invest in the Council?**

*"Haines City is the perfect geographical location from a logistical standpoint to service lower and middle Florida with excellent road access. I couldn't be happier with how Cyndi Jantomaso, the Haines City Economic Development Council, and the City of Haines City has treated our corporation and helped with all our needs."* **Gary P. Krupnick – President, The Westwood Companies, Inc.**

*"By serving Haines City, CSX is offering the most efficient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly method for shipping goods long distances over land. This will give shippers an alternative to trucking their goods and will help lower shipping costs in central Florida."* **Aubrey Brown, Senior Business Development Manager, CSX Transportation**

*"Transportation costs are rising rapidly, and trucking is becoming more difficult due to clogged roads and driver shortages. Rail service provides companies flexibility with logistics options, and for those that ship heavy loads or high volumes beyond 250 miles, the efficiency of rail transportation is very attractive."* **Stephen Whitley, Whitley Capital, LLC**

#### **What are some of the benefits to your business?**

- **Advocacy** - We are your personal advocate in the legislative branch. Our President served on the Board of Directors of the Florida Economic Development Council. This gives her a direct line to the decision makers in the State of Florida.
- **Governmental Liaison** - We are your personal liaison with the decision makers in the City of Haines City and Polk County.
- **Workforce** – You will have a direct line to the President of Workforce Florida.
- **Lead Generation** – You will gain firsthand knowledge of projects looking or landing in Haines City and Polk County.
- **Marketing** – We provide another alternative to market your business with an opportunity to link to your website from our webpage, along with the opportunity to have your logo on our marketing materials.
- **Networking** – You will be provided an opportunity to be a guest at conferences, meetings and events in central Florida relating to economic development in our region.

The Council continues to grow in our mission to provide leadership and excellence in bringing economic development to our community and partners. We know this could only be achieved by being at the forefront of offering quality resources and an increased diversity of expertise in economic development. The leadership role that the Council enjoys today is the result of the active participation and support of our valued investors.

#### Government Level

James Keene  
William Braswell

Deputy City Manager, City of Haines City  
Polk County Commissioner BOCC

#### Voting Member Level \$5000

Russel Mouton  
Tim Clark  
Stacy Campbell-Domineck  
Peveeta Samuel  
Merle Bishop  
Chris Schisler  
Jorge Altieri  
Beth Lockett  
Gary Krupnick  
Stephen Whitley

SouthState Bank  
Advent Health  
CareerSource Polk  
Duke Energy  
Pennoni  
ALDI Inc.  
Sofidel America  
Polk State College  
The Westwood Companies  
Whitley Financial Group

#### Non-voting Member Level \$3000

Wade Hughes

Florida Public Utilities

#### Non-voting Member Level \$1000

Lyndsey Novotny  
John Webb  
Mark Peebles  
Donna Fellows

Citizen's Bank  
Webb's Realty  
Cromer Press  
D-R Media/Four Corners Sun

#### Ex-Officio Board Members

Morris West

Mayor, City of Haines City

#### Community Partners

Lana Stripling  
Sam Killebrew  
Dr. Charles Anderson  
Christy Sammon  
Sean Mallot  
Beth Cicchetti  
Aubrey Brown  
Kim Long  
Alex Abraham

Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce  
State Representative  
Unity in the Community  
GoRail  
CFDC  
FEDC  
CSX  
Polk Vision  
Haines City CRA Manager/Consultant

#### ANNUAL INVESTMENT

- ❖ \$1,000.00 Non-voting Member Level - Logo on website and annual networking opportunities.
- ❖ \$3,000.00 Non-voting Member Level - Logo/Link on website; Noted on printed materials, campaigns, and quarterly update; all networking opportunities.
- ❖ \$5,000.00 Voting Member Level – Voting privileges; Executive Committee Openings; Logo/Link on website; Noted on printed materials, campaigns, and quarterly update; all networking opportunities.
- ❖ \$10,000.00+ Government Level - City, County, and State.

Note: Any member who fails to pay any dues assessment within three (3) months after the due date thereof shall be in violation of the membership requirements of the Council. Any member who fails to remain a member for any reason shall forfeit its membership, and dues already paid shall not be prorated or refunded.

*Updated 5/2025*