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Matthews OKs economic development job

By Melinda Johnston

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Matthews Commissioners approved a job description and salary range Monday night for an Economic Development Director, a new position that will added to the town.

That person will be responsible for helping guide development and redevelopment of office parks in the town and attracting new businesses to fill those developments. They also will be the “go-to” person when folks need to know exactly how much square footage is available and what uses are allowed on a particular site.

Matthews Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tina Whitley says it's a much needed position.

“We'll be working very closely with this person to try and get information out to businesses interested in coming to Matthews. Almost every week we get a call from a business that wants to relocate to Matthews. They tell us the number of square feet they need and ask where they can build in town. We need this person on town staff to give us these kinds of hard facts,” Whitley said.

The new position came as a result of the Strategic Economic Development Plan approved by Matthews commissioners last spring. That plan, drawn up by Warren & Associates after a number of meetings with various groups, was created to ensure Matthews' long-term fiscal health by recommending ways to create a balanced commercial-residential tax base.

Town manger Hazen Blodgett says advertising for the Economic Development Director position will begin later this month and will be closed Sept. 26 after which time the interview process will begin.

The salary range for the new position is \$49,426 - \$74,138.



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