

**MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS
MEETING JOINTLY**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

9:00 AM

**Robinson Event Center, Ballroom C
426 W Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee members present: Senators Gary Stubblefield, Chair; Jim Petty, Vice-Chair; Breanne Davis; Representatives Justin Gonzales, Chair; Karilyn Brown, Rebecca Burkes, Brad Hall, Mindy McAlindon, Jon Milligan, Aaron Pilkington, Johnny Rye, and Richard Womack

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell and Fredrick Love; Representatives Harlan Breaux, Dolly Henley, Austin McCollum, and Marcus Richmond

Senator Stubblefield called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Ratify Special Expenses Incurred in Conjunction with the May 21, 2025, House and Senate City, County, and Local Affairs Committees Meeting

Representative Pilkington made a motion to ratify special expenses, seconded by Representative Rye, and motion carried.

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committees

Representative Milligan made a motion to authorize chairs to approve special expenses, seconded by Senator Petty, and motion carried.

Opening Remarks

Hugh McDonald, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Commerce gave opening remarks addressing recent legislative updates and highlighted key challenges within the economic development sector.

The Power of Rural: Celebrating Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Success and Impact [Exhibit E]

Becca Caldwell, Director of Rural Services, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, gave a presentation highlighting the success and impact of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and provided an overview of key staff members and programs.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.