

*ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee*

Tuesday January 2, 2018 5:00 PM

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Don Griffin, Merlin Hageman, Terry Schuster, Tom Mahoney, Rebecca Hazzard, Ryan Hopper, and John VonTish.

**Absent:** Erin Folk, and Pat Donahue.

**Also, present:** Mayor-Ken Williams, Intern -Farrahn Hawkins, and City Clerk- Charlene Ruthe.

Chairman Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

**Intern:** Terry introduced Intern-Farrahn Hawkins, she will be working with the city on Economic development projects for eleven months, she was hired from The University of Western Illinois, Pearce Corp. program. She will be working on recruitment, visiting businesses, research, and working with the Chamber of Commerce.

**Minutes:** Approved the December 7, 2017 minutes.  
Motion carried. No Nays.

**Budget:** Terry and the Mayor have been considering other incomes for the Economic Development fund. Possibly the excess the City is receiving from the Video Gaming Machines and Sales Tax. The City is receiving more than Terry had budgeted.

**County Enterprise Zone:** Roger Hopkins, of Hopkins Solutions, was present he said next step will be a written proposal and then a final vote from the City Council.

**Ogle County Economic Development**

Five communities have commented to joining. The Committee will be taking inventory of properties in the cities/villages that have joined. Don mentioned that the Rural Development meeting is in March. He will forward the date and information to everyone. Blackhawk Hills will be sponsoring a meeting at Maxson's January 17<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm. RSVP to Mayor if planning on attending.

**TIF District:** Nothing new to report.

**Riverfront Zone:** Nothing new to report.

**Website:** Nothing new to report. Farrahn will be reviewing the website to check for businesses that have left the area and new ones coming.

**Marketing Plan Update:** Roger Hopkins said, he could help with marketing. He suggested that the business retention group meet with the major employers (Blout, Etnyre's FN Smith & Unman) to see about over night stays. Possibly a hotel study.

**Economic Development Position:** Working on newsletter.

**Mayor spread sheet:**

Business recruitment LOIS-Terry and Farrahn to work on

Business recruitment-Hopkins Solutions

Downtown design-Mayor will provide design guidelines to owners

TIF Agreements-Ken & TIF Consultants

Recruit new members

Enterprise Zone-Mayor, Terry, and Don

Streetscape W Washington Street-Mayor, Mike Bowers, City Engineer (This was submitted approval should be in March of this year.)

The City Council approved purchasing the Old Harvard Drive -In Building at 418 W Washington Street. Plan on having a Welcome Center with restrooms and possibly future Farmer's Markets.

When updating Municode will consider discussing temporary signs in commercial districts.

**Oregon Together:** Going to have a SWAT analyst to determine what to work on next. Also working to reorganize the committee.

Mayor announced that the group that did the WWII Reenactment at Stronghold Castle last year are interested in doing it again. Possibly having a parade and making it a lager event. It would be the weekend of Armed Forces Day in May.

Have had a lot of requests wanting to know what is happening to the Blackhawk Statue. Representative Demmer has been invited to Village Bakery January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM to discuss what needs to be done to restore. A grant is available however State has not released it yet.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe