

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chairman Don Griffin, Erin Folk, , Merlin Hageman, Tom Mahoney, Aaron Sitze, Terry Schuster, and John Von Tish.

Absent: Andrew Dettman, Tom Golden, and Beth Henderson.

Also present: Ken Williams-Mayor, Charlene Ruthe-City Clerk, Donna Mann, Jeff Hallock, and Rick Ryland.

Minutes: Approved January 2016 minutes. Motion carried. No Nays.

Gary Davis addressed the Mayor and Committee. He supports change; however, what has the Mayor and this Committee done in the past eight months since the election. Why would the city pay to have utilities to a subdivision that has set idle? He and other citizens feels that the city needs more incentives to bring businesses. That money could have been used to help businesses. The public is not being informed of what is going on. He has challenged the Council and Committee to bring more people to live in Oregon.

Guest Speaker: Carrie Zethmayr, DCEO Region Manager, informed the committee of the different programs they offer and how she can help with future projects

Business Packets: The City Clerk forwarded a packet for new businesses to Terry. A third party will be putting a folder together for everyone to look over and this will also be discussed when designing the new city website.

Website: Mayor, Terry, and Police Chief will be meeting tomorrow to discuss updating the city website. Once something is put into place everyone will get to look at before going live.

Budget: Terry said total fund balance right now is \$81,097.00; however, with Comprehensive Plan and website expenses balance will be twenty to thirty thousand.

Teska update: Surveys are being compiled by Teska and Assoc. Hoping to have a combined Economic Development meeting with Plan Commission members sometime this month.

Mapping process: Donna Mann mentioned that the Mapping Process is not a City funded program. It is citizens interested in developing a plan for long term community goals and specific short term projects to reach those goals. A steering committee of ten persons has been formed to decide logistics, communicate purpose and goals of process to community, to raise funds through sponsorships, and to ensure the diversity of interests in the community. The project is set to start in April of 2016. Five three-hour meeting with about 60 to 75 people will take place.

Donna had a handout explaining the different programs or grants USDA Rural Development has available. She also said NIU has a program for small businesses where a student can help with marketing projects.

Funding Programs: Mayor and Terry have been looking into different programs and incentives for new businesses.

Future Project: Terry and John will be working on another article to be put in the newspaper.

Regional Meeting: Don is hoping to have a regional meeting in the future with Mt. Morris and Byron's Economic Development Committees.

Adjourned at 6:15PM

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe