

*ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee*

Tuesday April 3, 2018 5:00 PM

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

**Absent:** Pat Donahue and Rebecca Hazzard.

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

Chairman Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

**Intern:** Farrahn has been working on recruitment, visiting businesses, research, working on a six-week business seminar she would like the businesses owners to attend, and working with the Chamber of Commerce on a new brochure.

**Minutes:** Approved the February 6, 2018 minutes.  
Motion carried. No Nays.

**Budget:** Nothing new to report.

**County Enterprise Zone:** Roger Hopkins, of Hopkins Solutions, was present the Village of Forreston, Village of Mt. Morris, and City of Amboy have all turned in documents and are being sent for final approval. They are also holding the acreage the City of Oregon is requesting.

**Ogle County Economic Development**

Next meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am in Rochelle. Ogle County approved a Solar Farm west of Mt Morris.

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

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

**Website:** Over nine hundred hits on home page 1/3 more than last year.

**Marketing Plan Update:** Roger Hopkins handed out a spreadsheet to keep track of the businesses we have, what business are within fifteen miles, and what we want to see in the area. Farrahn will be working on this project.

**Mayor spread sheet:**

Business recruitment LOIS- Farrahn sent out letters to commercial property owners.

The Dirksen property on River Road, which is about 178 acres is for sale, it's outside of city limits, and would probably be mix use zoning. City water and sewer would be available.

Business recruitment-Hopkins Solutions

Downtown design-When someone in the Commercial District applies for a sign permit.

They will be given a two-page document of suggested colors to be used.

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 for approval.)

**Oregon Together:** Working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rockin River Fest that will be June 16<sup>th</sup>.

The WWII reenactment will not happen this year they are in the process of looking for a new site location.

Mayor Ken Williams is in the first stage of trying to get an Immediate Care Faculty to come to Oregon. Right now, citizens have to go to Dixon or Rockford.

A Committee has been formed to raise funds for the restoration of the Blackhawk Statue. Still need about five hundred thousand to finish. Hopefully three hundred fifty thousand will be available through State funding.

Don, Terry, and Farrah attended the Rural Affairs Conference in Springfield. Materials from the conference are on their website.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe