

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chairman Don Griffin, Tom Golden, Aaron Sitze, Terry Schuster, John Von Tish.

(These three arrived later in the meeting) Merlin Hageman, Beth Henderson, and Tom Mahoney.

Absent: Andrew Dettman and Erin Folk.

Also present: Mayor Ken Williams and City Clerk Charlene Ruthe.

With a quorum not being present at the start of the meeting only discussion took place.

Opening Comments:

Don and Terry attended the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs seminar in Springfield. Felt it was a very good seminar, learned a lot, and got some good contacts. Learned that we should be promoting Tourism and Art. Several committees have been focusing on this already, so we are moving in the right direction.

Budget:

Terry handed out a report on income and expenses for Economic Development. The City had a few donations this past fiscal year along with the franchise fees for income. Recurring expenses include: Chamber Tourism, GIS, Ifiber, maintenance of flowers/watering, AOP/Candlelight walk.

Website update: Mayor, Terry, and Steve Varble have been working on website should be able to view by next month.

Tom Mahoney arrived. Quorum present now.

Minutes:

Approved March minutes from the 1st and 7th and April 5th. Motion carried. No Nays.

Spread sheet progress:

Tom Mahoney has been working with KMK on a kit for new businesses. Have used Lena's as a sample. He will call them to see when a deliverable will be ready.

Merlin Hagemann arrived.

Settler' Ridge Subdivision: Bank is preparing a contract with realtor Sharon Bower's from Nieman & Dickerson to manage moving forward with selling lots. The utilities should be in by end of May. The bank & realtor will be in charge of signage promoting the future growth of the subdivision. Merlin will be in contact with Sharon regarding the signage.

Façade Designs: Lingle Design Group and Teska & Assoc. will be putting proposals together for downtown facade designs.

Codebook: Municode will be working on updating the City Codes.

Parking Design: Banners will be placed in the downtown showing the direction to city parking lots.

Beth Henderson arrived.

Coliseum:

Discussion took place on how allowing food in the gym area of the Coliseum will help promote the downtown. In the future could have movies, concerts, seminar, and etc. Tom Mahoney made a motion to recommend to the City Council that they allow the usage of food and drink in the gym, Seconded by Beth Henderson.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Tom Golden suggested that a full time person be hired for Economic Development. It is needed to promote tourism and to work with the merchants to apply for grants to beautify the community.

Tom Mahoney moved to explore hiring an Economic Development person, Seconded by Beth Henderson.

Motion carried no nays.

An internship will be looked into by the Mayor and Terry.

TIF District:

Mayor is looking into having a speaker at a future meeting to discuss a TIF District in the downtown. A study will be done on what area or areas would be considered.

Don thanked the Mayor and Terry for their work on the different projects that have been moving forward in the past year.

Beth Henderson said she needs to resign from the committee. Her manager quit and she needs to regroup. Don talked her for serving on the committee and wished her well.

If you know of anyone interested in serving on the committee, please let Don know.

John VonTish moved to adjourn, Seconded by Don Griffin.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Adjourned at 6:15 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe