

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday June 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chairman Don Griffin, Erin Folk, Merlin Hageman, John VonTish, and Ryan Hopper.

Absent: Terry Schuster, Pat Donahue, Tom Mahoney 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.

Minutes: Approved the May 1, 2018 minutes.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Budget: Budget \$33,000.00, with Franchise fees being \$56,000.00, and additional video gaming money. Will have final tax bill for DI Building, cost for restroom to be put in, cost unknown at this time, and funds allotted for yearly newsletter are a few for the projected expenses.

County Enterprise Zone: Don & Farrah attended the meeting in Rochelle last week. The criteria have changed since turning in the city's request. Now they want to know if the expansion is being driven by an industrial or larger scale use of the zone and a letter of commitment from a company that will locate or expand due to Enterprise Zone. The Mayor is willing to ask for a letter from FN Smith and the new owner of the Pines Road property that the Public Aid Office relocated to. However, why the change in criteria? The downtown has brought new businesses, which brought in new jobs. If they won't include downtown areas the smaller communities wouldn't qualify only Rochelle and Dixon would benefit. Mayor will be getting in touch with the Mayor of Rochelle, Chet Olson to see why the change at this point.

Ogle County Economic Development

Discussed Solar Farms and how they can use the non-development areas. They will require a substation, which also needs a special-use permit approved by county and city or village they are closest too.

TIF District: John Von Tish moved to recommend the TIF Application submitted by Merlin & Cindy Hagemann for their downtown building located at 305 W Washington Street, to the City Council, Seconded by Erin Folk.

Motion carried. Abstained: Merlin.

Riverfront Zone: Nothing new to report.

Website: Nothing new to report.

Marketing Plan Update: Farrah is working on 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.

Mayor spread sheet:

KSB is not interested in an immediate care facility in Oregon. Mayor Williams would like to form a sub-committee consisting of himself, School District, and Park District to contact the Hospitals in Rockford to see if one of them would be interested.

Mayor Williams said, things are moving forward; however still a lot of work to be done. Need more downtown parking, possibly more residential living in the downtown, and street repairs. He showed a video from Strong Town website. It addressed growth on the out skirts of town and how it leaves the downtown buildings vacant. He will send the link to the members.

Intern: Farrahn has finished a brochure on Antique Shops, which she handed out for everyone to look at. They will be delivered to the businesses and if they want any additional they will supply their own copies. She has been working on an Oregon Booklet with the Chamber, updating the LOIS advertising of commercial properties, google training, recruiting new businesses, and volunteering when possible.

Oregon Together:

A Committee has been formed to raise funds for the restoration of the Blackhawk Statue. Still need about five hundred thousand dollars to finish. Hopefully three hundred fifty thousand will be available through State funding. A fund raiser for restoration is scheduled for May 20th at Lowden Taft Campus, tickets will be one hundred dollars. They can be purchased at Merlin's, Stillman Valley Bank, Harvard Bank, and the Ukulele Station.

Meeting adjourned at PM

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe