

*ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee*

Tuesday April 7th, 2020 5:00 PM

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Don Griffin, Phil Lehmann, Tom Mahoney, John VonTish, and Terry Schuster.

**Absent:** Erin Folk, Rebecca Hazzard, and Robin Etnyre.

**Also, present:** Chris Manheim, Andy Shaw, Kim Wetzal, Mayor Ken Williams and Cheryl Hilton.

Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

**Public comment:** None.

**Minutes:** Discussed March 3, 2020 minutes.  
Did not approve minutes.

**Budget:** Nothing new to report.

**Oregon Enterprise Zone:** Andy Shaw is working on contracting out solar contract. Workforce housing study discussed and Tom thought with people being out of work or slow at the moment, might be a good time to get a good price.

**Consulting Services Proposal:** Monthly Report for March 2020.

**Economic & SBA Help and Loans:** Ken mentioned there are two key grant programs available for business owners within our downtown. Programs ended on April 1<sup>st</sup> and we are now waiting for updates on those. Liz at the Chamber is updating information for business owners on the website and adding links to useful information as well as sharing on social media. Phil Lehmann said there is a lot of misinformation circulating. There have been no distributions. PPP is the biggest program available. Committee discussed the State of IL program that would reward each business that qualifies \$25,000. Program is extremely intricate and would require a lot of man hours. Chris is available to make sure that the applications have accurate material. If a business qualifies, the city would be responsible for the program. Liz has reference information and the guidebook. Mayor thought responsibilities could be split internally to manage the project and keep the cost down. Don asked if there were ECDC funds that could be available. Committee would like to bring this to the City Council.

**River Front/Dayton Superior Building Purchase:** Street department has purchased the old Dayton Superior Building. This is saving the City money and is in move in condition. The property is also river front property that will be useful for the City in the future.

**Ogle County Economic Development:** No meeting scheduled at this time still working on moving forward since the County has a new board chairman.

**TIF District:** Mayor Williams discussed the water line behind the old National Clothing building. Waiting on sign offs on easements and then move forward. Terry mentioned that Iron Mike will likely be installed mid to late May. Mike Bowers is still working on this project.

**Meeting Date & Time:** Time and date are ok. Rick McCause would like to join the committee. Meeting will be through Zoom.

**Chamber News:** The pub crawl was successful. Chamber is working on a Halloween event. Liz is also working closely with businesses and the community to see if there is a need for help. Local restaurant information and menu's have been distributed. Everyone is Essential campaign has been well received. Window clings are available at local retailers for purchase. Funds from this will create a Covid 19 recovery fund for businesses.

**Oregon Together:** All meetings have been cancelled. No new report.

**Other business:** Mayor Williams thanked everyone and hopes that we are a city that can make it through these tough times.

Andy Shaw mentioned that the state has grants still available that would be highly beneficial to the City.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm

Submitted by Deputy Clerk Cheryl Hilton