

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday March 3rd , 2020 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chairman Don Griffin, Phil Lehmann, Erin Folk, John VonTish, and Terry Schuster.

Absent: Tom Mahoney, Rebecca Hazzard, and Robin Etnyre.

Also, present: Chris Manheim, and City Clerk- Charlene Ruthe.

Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

Public comment: None.

Minutes: Approved February 4, 2020 minutes.

Motion carried no Nays.

Budget: At end of year should have a balance of about \$117,00.00. Revenue consists of franchise fees, video gaming, and internet sales tax. Expenses for the downtown area is about 30% of the budget. It's important because it helps draw people to the downtown.

County Enterprise Zone: Meeting scheduled for next month. Andy Shaw is working on an RFP request for housing he hopes to have ready for the April meeting.

Consulting Services Proposal: Roger and Chris have been working on updating the tracking list for attraction prospects, uploading key references to drop box, LOIS, working with the area Colleges and local realtors on housing and work force issues. Would like to work with the school on training programs for the manufacturing businesses in the area. Chris emailed the Clerk a newsletter he asked if she would forward to the committee members. Pictures of housing development in the City of Dixon along the riverfront were handed out.

Façade Grant Applications: Nothing new turned in.

Terry Schuster announced that the City will be having a public hearing to change the Pines Road Corridor Zoning to Business District which would allow Light Industrial.

The Mayor was contacted about video gaming machines at the Shell Gas Station. Not interested in doing that at this time.

The Mayor was also contacted about putting in a second Dollar Store. Currently doesn't think we have the support for a second store. Currently Illinois have fourteen thousand General Dollar Stores.

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: Nothing new to report.

Conference: Don, Terry, and Liz from Chamber attended the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Seminar in Springfield. At one of the sessions they discussed affordable housing. In 2018 a study was completed, and most people only make \$18.00 an hour so they are not able to afford purchasing a home. This is a national problem everywhere. The speaker said they have tax programs and federal dollars available for help. Don will contact her to see if they could attend a future meeting to inform the committee more about the programs offered.

Chamber: Chamber had their yearly election for the board member's, and they stayed the same. St Patrick's Day Event is scheduled for March 14th. This is a first-time event so excited to see how it goes.

Date and Time Change of Future Meetings: The Committee discussed possibly changing the day and time of future meetings. Don mentioned that Rick McCause a builder that moved back to town would be interested in being on the committee.

Oregon Together: Chocolate Walk is scheduled for April 23rd. Thirty to forty businesses participated last year.

CMAAA Coliseum Lease Support: City Council will be discussing and voting on the lease at the March 24th meeting. Terry feels after having the public meeting at the Coliseum that people got their questions answered. The stage area and the basement will be available for the public to have different events.

Jon VonTish moved that the ECDC Committee supports CMAAA leasing the Coliseum for a Museum, Seconded by Phil Lehmann.
Motion carried. No Nays.

Meeting adjourned 5:52 pm

Submitted by City Clerk Charlene Ruthe