

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday September 1st, 2020 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chairman Don Griffin, Erin Folk, Phil Lehmann, Rick McCanse, and Tom Mahoney.

Absent: Rebecca Hazzard, Terry Schuster, and John Von Tish.

Also, present: Darin DeHaan, Chris Manheim, Mayor-Ken Williams, and Cheryl Hilton.

Chairman Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Tom Mahoney moved to approve the August 4th, 2020 minutes, seconded by Rick McCanse.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Enterprise Zone: Mayor Ken Williams said the solar farm in Lee County is having the final hearing soon.

Consulting Services: Chris Manheim said he has touched base with Rebecca Hazzard on the housing market. He is continuing to work on the Moring Properties that are contiguous with City property along the riverfront.

Economic & SBA Help and Loans: Phil Lehmann said the SBA is constantly changing the rules and it is hard to help anyone. Mayor Ken Williams said that 2 local businesses have been awarded the BIG grant. He also said that the Cures Act hired an outside party, CROW, to administer the program and that it is likely that many Cities will be reallocating money due to the stipulations that have been applied to the Federal grant by the State.

River Front: City would like to make it more attractive to developer's, but a lot of money and resources are going towards Covid 19. There is a possibility for the City to apply for grants to help with the cleanup of the riverfront.

TIF Update/Façade Grant: Mayor Ken Williams said the TIF application from Wiggale's will be on the agenda for the first City Council meeting in September. Wiggale's are pushing to be done in October.

Exelon: Don Griffin said the impact from the lost tax base if the Exelon plant is not kept operational will be huge. It will affect many aspects of our community. Tom Mahoney has been in touch with Tom Demmer and Senator Stuart. Erin Folk said that NIU is conducting a survey to see what the impact could be. She was unsure of the timeline of the study. Don Griffin said the information from this survey could be beneficial. He also said that the timeline is very tight, and it is hard to get the support to move forward.

Meeting adjourned 5:28 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton