

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday December 1st, 2020 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin, Erin Folk, Tom Mahoney, Rick McCause, Terry Schuster, and Jon VonTish.

Absent: Rebecca Hazzard and Phil Lehman.

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

Don Griffin called the meeting to order.

Tom Mahoney moved to approve Minutes from September 1st, October 6th, and November 4th,
Seconded by John VonTish.

Motion carried, No nays.

ECDC Budget Report: Terry Schuster reported that the budget for ECDC has received revenues of around \$90,000 up to this point. There will still be payments made to the Wiggale Walkway project, that will leave a balance of \$40,000 to \$50,000. Mayor Ken Williams said an additional employee was added to the street department. This will allow for the street department to do work that was previously done by outside contractors. The ECDC budget will then have less money being paid out of their budget.

Oregon Enterprise Zone: Mayor Ken Williams said a second tier has been created for large scale businesses with previously unavailable incentives.

Consulting Services: Chris Manheim included a monthly activity report for the month of November. He finished the Brownfield grant application and is working to get this approved. They are still working on the DCEO drawdown grants. A few changes to the narratives needed to be done.

Housing Development: Don Griffin said Dan Payette is looking to do an impact study that will fill in some of the needs in our community.

River Front: Terry Schuster said a conceptual drawing of the river walk will be completed in the next 3 weeks.

TIF Plan/Updates on TIF applications/Façade Grants: Mayor Ken Williams said a \$50,000 check was distributed to Wiggale's and to expect a façade grant application for the Wiesner building on South 4th Street.

Chamber News: Liz Vos said the 1st Candlelight Walk was successful and several businesses reported on having record sales. The 2nd Candlelight Walk will be held on December 19th. Terry Schuster said the City has not lost any businesses during the pandemic and in fact have added 3 or 4 new businesses.

ECDC Goals/Other Business: Mayor Ken Williams said the City needs to position itself for opportunities for when people can get back out into the community. Don Griffin said there may be an opportunity for the Cities housing market if the new business in Rochelle does well. Terry Schuster said the City can create an invitation to invite people to come to Oregon. He asked about broadband coverage for the City. Mayor Ken Williams has an upcoming meeting with Blackhawk Hills, who are currently working on this. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he was contacted by Hillary with the Oregon Public Library who sees a need for this in our community. She sent him grant information and would like to be involved in this committee when established. Mayor Ken Williams said a tower will be coming down in the next few weeks that still has equipment, satellite dishes and I-fiber for NIU on it. A smaller tower may be put up until these things can be moved to the new tower. Tom Mahoney reported the school went to 2 weeks of full remote learning due to staffing issues and the increase in reported Coronavirus cases. Terry Schuster asked about updates on ComEd legislative issues. Mayor Ken Williams said possibly get legislation in place by spring. He also said that the City is in a good position to provide PPE to the community. The City provided PPE and other cleaning supplies to day camps created for kids who were off over the 2-week school closure.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton