

**ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee**

**Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 5:00 PM**

**Committee Members Present:** Don Griffin, Erin Folk, Phil Lehman, Tom Mahoney, Rick McCanse, Terry Schuster, and Liz Vos.

**Absent:** Rebecca Hazzard.

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

Don Griffin called the meeting to order and called roll.

Phil Lehmann moved to approve Minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Seconded by Tom Mahoney.

Motion carried. No nays.

**Oregon Enterprise Zone:** Mayor Ken Williams said there is an Enterprise Zone meeting tomorrow. The City Council approved the amendment to the ordinance at the last council meeting.

**Consulting Services/Economic & SBA Loans Update:** Chris Manheim is continuing to work with the IEPA on the Dayton Superior project. He included a monthly report.

**Housing Development:** Terry Schuster was asked to be a reviewer of the proposals for the housing study that was issued by Blackhawk Hills Regional Council.

**Broadband Progress/5G:** Terry Schuster believes that the speed within the city is adequate for home businesses. Many people are driving into the city from the county to use the new co-op facility that was recently opened. Don Griffin said the county is aware of a need for faster speeds. This has become an issue with e-learning for kids outside of the city.

**Riverfront:** Terry Schuster has been working with Willett Hoffman on the Riverwalk project. They are down to the final draft with overlays and hope to present them soon to the committee. The IGA agreement with the Oregon Fire Department was finalized. The property will be managed by the City for mass gatherings in hopes of drawing people to the riverfront area.

**TIF Plan/Updates on TIF applications/Façade Grants:** Mayor Ken Williams has received inquiries regarding expanding Façade Grants beyond the downtown area. He would like to offer incentives to retailers renting space in the downtown to attract more retail stores. Terry Schuster said the ECDC website will be integrated with the City Website. Liz Vos has been contracted to help manage the website. Incentives and downtown spaces available for rent could be advertised on the website.

**Chamber News:** The Chamber is promoting downtown businesses with a Valentine's Day Promotion. Liz Vos said many businesses have special offers available. She is also working on creating a coupon book for businesses and on events for the Chamber for the 2021 year. She also said the Chamber will not be sponsoring the annual pub crawl.

**ECDC Goals/Other Business:** Erin Folk has been in contact with Exelon. The Governor is reviewing their financials. There is better communication with the new Speaker in the house. There will be a better idea around mid-March of Exelon's future. Mayor Ken Williams said even with Covid-19 the City is fortunate. The Presbyterian Church will soon be a day care center. Sweeney's Outfitter's is looking for a manager for his location on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Courthouse Tavern is getting a new sign and hopes to be open around St. Patrick's Day. There is also a production company coming into town to film a movie.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton