

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday July 6, 2021, 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin and Terry Schuster.

Present via Zoom: Erin Folk, Tom Mahoney, Rick McCause, and Liz Vos.

Absent: Rebecca Hazzard and Phil Lehmann.

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

Don Griffin called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:01 pm.

Terry Schuster moved to approve minutes from June 1st, 2021, Seconded by Don Griffin.

Motion carried. No nays.

ECDC Budget Report: Terry Schuster updated the committee on the current budget. Last year there were expenses due to Covid-19 that will not be repeated this year.

Retail Economic Development Incentives: Mayor Ken Williams said no formal applications have been submitted for the incentive program although there have been several inquiries.

Consulting Services: Chris Manheim spoke regarding the summer business and retention survey from Blaine-Canada. The committee agreed to proceed with the survey.

SBA Loans: The loans have been closed out.

Housing Development: Blackhawk Hills is asking for information on new residential construction since 2018 within the city and county for the housing study. An investment firm has also reached out to the city about converting residential homes into short term rental or tourist homes. This would restrict the number of homes available to be sold.

Broadband Progress: The county has put together a committee to start working on this project. The committee will be applying for grants to help complete the circuit to Mt. Morris. Dan Payette is also working with the committee for additional grant funding options. GIS is working on a topographical map.

Riverfront: Currently working on establishing an easement behind Kiwanis Park for the bridge-to-bridge walking path. Some of the walking path is owned by the city and some by the Oregon Park District. The ITEP grant can be applied for in the fall to help with the costs of the walking path.

TIF: Mayor Ken Williams will be meeting with the City Council to discuss a revised agreement with Hvarre Development.

Chamber News: Liz Vos introduced the Community Gift Card program which will be replacing Chamber Bucks. The Community Gift Card can only be redeemed at local participating businesses. There will also be a community clean up on September 12th. This program helps residents clean up their yards. She has been working with Commissioner Wilson to locate residents who would benefit from this effort. The Annual Chamber dinner will be August 19th at Stronghold.

ECDC Goals/Other Business: The committee would like to keep the community updated about ECDC events and successes throughout the year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton