

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday September 7th, 2021, 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin and Phil Lehmann.

Present via Zoom: Rebecca Hazzard and Liz Vos.

Absent: Erin Folk, Tom Mahoney, Rick McCanse, and Terry Schuster.

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

Don Griffin called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:00 pm.

Rebecca Hazzard moved to approve minutes from August 3rd, 2021, Seconded by Phil Lehmann.

Motion carried. No nays.

Ogle County Economic Development Coalition: The committee discussed an economic development partnership which would include all of Ogle County. The county would benefit from combined economic development strategies and reduce duplication of expenses from each community by combining. The partnership with multiple communities within the county would allow for a centralized hub of information, including access to grant writers and a well-maintained property database. Regional collaboration is needed for the future success of all communities. Each community would need to contribute to the funding of an economic development director.

Exelon Update: A House Executive Committee Meeting is being held Thursday morning.

Chamber News/Oregon Together/Community Events: Community Clean-up Day is being held on September 12th. A group of around 30 volunteers will help clean-up 5 homes in town.

Other Business: Property located east of town on River Road has been sold. There is approximately 177 acres there. The buyer intends to farm the land for now. The owners of the old theatre are motivated to sell the property. Possible TIF incentives are available to a motivated buyer.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton