

***ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee***

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

**Committee Members Present:** Don Griffin and Rick McCause.

**Present via Zoom:** Tom Mahoney, Terry Schuster, and Liz Vos.

**Also, present:** Darin DeHaan, Cheryl Hilton, and Chris Manheim.

**Absent:** Erin Folk, Rebecca Hazzard, and Phil Lehmann.

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

Tom Mahoney moved to approve minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Seconded by Terry Schuster.

Motion carried. No nays.

**ECDC Budget Report:** The economic development fund is over budget due to one-time expenditures for Iron Mike and to replace flower baskets and liners. There may also be a potential TIF fund expenditure for a new event facility on south 1<sup>st</sup> street.

**Consulting Services-Hopkins/Manheim:** The committee is continuing to work on a recent-successes press release. Chris Manheim attended the International Economic Development Council's Annual Conference. He shared some rural community marketing strategies with the committee that included community digital branding, and public-private partnerships.

**TIF plan/Updates on TIF application, Façade Grants:** Merlin Hageman has completed a TIF application for a property located on 1<sup>st</sup> street that he has purchased. Aaron and Katie VanRaalte submitted a façade grant for their new location at 408 E Washington Street, however the City Council asked for more information to be provided before making a decision.

**Chamber News/Oregon Together/Community Events:** The Chamber had two hundred participants for the Trick or Drink event. The Chamber is getting ready for Candlelight Walk which will be held November 27<sup>th</sup>. Oregon Together is hosting a community meeting at Cork and Tap on Thursday.

**ECDC Events, Collaboration and Successes:** Darin DeHaan attended a meeting with other interested communities regarding the Ogle County Economic Development Partnership. He is continuing to collaborate with the mayor on the cities vision with the partnership and to finalize the financial funds to join the group project. The preliminary plat for Trestle Ridge was approved by both the Planning Commission and the City Council. The developer believes the property purchase will be completed in January and development can then begin in the spring. Sjostrom and Sons broke ground on the ADA ramp at the Coliseum and plan to complete the project this year.

**Other Business:** Don Griffin suggested holding a workgroup or brainstorming meeting to work on the marketing strategies presented by Chris Manheim.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton