

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday March 1st, 2022, 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Liz Vos.

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

Present via Zoom: Erin Folk, Don Griffin, Tom Mahoney, Terry Schuster.

Absent: Rebecca Hazzard, Phil Lehmann, and Rick McCanse.

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

Tom Mahoney moved to approve minutes from February 1st, 2022, Seconded by Erin Folk.

Motion carried. No nays.

Oregon Enterprise Zone Update: The Enterprise Zone is distributing funds back to communities that provided funds. The City of Oregon will be receiving about \$1,200. These funds will be used towards the hotel feasibility study.

Hotel Feasibility Study Proposals: Chris Manheim and Darin DeHaan met with two consultants, Gruen, Gruen & Associates and Hunden, to discuss their respective hotel feasibility proposals. Chris Manheim believes both consultants would provide the necessary data and statistical information.

Consulting Services-Hopkins/Manheim -Update: Chris Manheim is continuing his research for the old movie theater. He is looking for feedback and suggestions from other smaller communities. The IEPA soil samples will begin in March at the old Dayton Superior Building. He also said the hotel feasibility study will give the city good data for downtown businesses and help with the next step towards the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Chamber News Report/Oregon Together Report/Community Events: Liz Vos and Darin DeHaan worked together to apply for a community cleanup grant. The community cleanup will be held April 24th and September 11th, 2022. The Emerging Leaders program will be held the 3rd Monday of each month beginning in April. Donna Mann will be providing presentations and private meetings for the program. Shamrock the Town is being held on Saturday March 12th.

Other Reports: Don Griffin would like to meet to discuss different sessions held during the Rural Development Conference. Mayor Ken Williams said Rockford Region 1 planning is working on a project regarding electric vehicle charging stations. They have selected a vendor and are in the process of negotiating fees. They have sent a survey to cities and counties to see if there is an interest from communities for this service. The price range is from \$4,800 to \$6,000 per charging station. The park district is currently looking to provide two charging stations. Liz Vos said the Sweeneys retail location has already been filled. The old Northside BBQ location has had many inquiries. The Chamber of Commerce could have 2-4 possible business openings this upcoming month. Darin DeHaan said he has had several meetings with entrepreneurs looking for locations. The Comprehensive Plan for the city was also discussed. The current plan is 6 years old. The group would like to conduct a community study if a new comprehensive plan is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton