

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday August 2nd, 2022, 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin, Phil Lehmann, Terry Schuster, and Liz Vos.

Also, present: Darin DeHaan, Tanya Hardy, Cheryl Hilton, Chris Manheim, Aaron Mudge, Aaron Roe, Melissa Rojas, and Mayor Ken Williams.

Present via Zoom: Tom Mahoney.

Absent: Rebecca Hazzard and Erin Folk.

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

No public comment.

Tom Mahoney moved to approve minutes from July 7th, 2022, Seconded by Phil Lehmann.

Motion carried. No nays.

Tom Mahoney moved to approve a Façade Grant for Jasman Martin and Mutts and Cuts, Seconded by Phil Lehmann.

Discussion: The façade grant is a resubmission for Mutts and Cuts dog grooming which is located at 800 S. 4th Street. The previous request included a marquee sign that was not a part of the façade, this was removed from the new application. The new façade grant request is for \$8,999.69. The city will provide fifty percent of the total, \$4,499.85, towards the grant. This leaves approximately \$6,000.00 in budgeted funds remaining for façade grants this fiscal year.

Motion carried. No nays.

Consulting Services/County ECDC: Chris Manheim reported the completion of the theater project, Dayton soil testing, and the hotel feasibility study. Ogle County approved an ARPA economic development grant in the amount of \$17,250 to the city. The funds will be used towards updating the city comprehensive plan. The Accelerate Illinois Broadband survey will provide information for the “middle mile plan.” This will help close gaps in broadband between communities. Mayor Ken Williams stated the city has two major needs for broadband, hotspots within the downtown and more affordable options.

Comprehensive Plan: The downtown of the community has been extremely revitalized, and the city has started to expand beyond the downtown. The city would like to conduct a community survey to get recommendations from the residents. This will provide a blueprint for how to move the city forward. The city received three proposals from Teska, Kon Savoy, and NIU. The city has chosen the NIU Strategic Management group to lead the comprehensive plan update.

TIF Plan/Updates on TIF Application: The city has been approached by Dollar General to build another location on Rt. 64. The property would need to be annexed into city limits. The city has requested certain criteria for the look of the building. Once final drawings are submitted to the city, the request will be brought back to the committee.

Chamber News: The emerging leaders group visited LeClaire Iowa. The last emerging leader session will be held on Monday where the group will be picking out a capstone project. The Chamber Annual dinner will be held on August 18th. The masquerade ball held at Stronghold raised \$3,500.00. The money raised will go towards establishing mountain bike trails at Stronghold. Liz Vos is also planning a two-day folk festival.

Don Griffin invited the Emerging Leaders group back to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton