

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday February 6th, 2024 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Chris Chapman, Don Griffin, Mike Glenn, Phil Lehmann, and Terry Schuster.

Also, present: City Manager Darin DeHaan, Mike Delaney, Cheryl Hilton, Chris Manheim, and Mayor Ken Williams.

Present via Zoom: Lynn Baylor-Zies and Tammy Nehr Korn.

Absent: Erin Folk, Rebecca Hazzard, Tom Mahoney, and John VonTish.

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

Don Griffin called roll call. A quorum was present.

No public comment.

Terry Schuster moved to approve the December 5th, 2023 Minutes, Seconded by Mike Glenn.

Motion carried. No nays.

County ECDC: City Manager Darin DeHaan said an Executive Director has been hired for the position with the Ogle County Economic Development Coalition. Charlene Coulombe has an extensive background in economic development and will be starting on February 15th.

Business Development Update: Mayor Ken Williams said the renovations at 125 S. 4th Street are continuing. There is no opening date set for this location yet. The owners of the old Midwest Dental location are considering making the space a two-unit suite.

TIF and Enterprise Zone Updates: Mayor Ken Williams stated the city approved an amendment to the Enterprise Zone that will increase acreage allowed for future use and growth.

Chamber News/Oregon Together Report/Schools/Community Events:

Chris Chapman said the Chamber accepted the resignation of their Executive Director. Terry Schuster stated they are looking for a new director and are working on the specifics for the position.

Mike Glenn said CMAAA hosted the city's Comprehensive Plan public meeting. They also held their first artist reception last Friday night and had a great turnout. Multiple events are planned in the upcoming months which include a Lunch & Learn hosted by the Chamber of Commerce at the end of February, an Irish themed artist reception on March 15th, and a glass butterfly workshop. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the results for the Tourism grant will be made in late March. The funds from the grant will be used to update the stage, stage curtain, and elevator lift.

Apprenticeship Presentation by Tammy Nehr Korn-Best Inc.: Tammy Nehr Korn spoke to the committee regarding an apprenticeship program that benefits both the business and the student of the program.

Comprehensive Plan Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said everyone was engaged at the Comprehensive Plan public meeting. The proposed plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on February 20th. There have been over fifty-two corrections and recommendations made over the last several months, including the addition of affordable housing. Mike Delaney said a lot of discussion

during the comprehensive plan meeting centered on marketing issues even though the comprehensive plan is for land use. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he is working with Vos Marketing on that issue.

Affordable Housing Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said two students from NIU will be conducting a housing study for the city as part of their capstone project. He will be meeting with the students this week to discuss the project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton