

*ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee*

Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 5:00 PM

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Glenn, Don Griffin, Chance Munroe, and Terry Schuster.

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

**Present via Zoom:** Mike Delaney, Kim Ewoldsen, Phil Lehmann, and Tom Mahoney.

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

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

Don Griffin called roll call. A quorum was present.

No public comment.

Mike Glenn moved to approve the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Minutes, Seconded by Tom Mahoney.

Motion carried. No nays.

**County ECDC:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said Charlene Coloumbe has scheduled a tour of Etnyre for the OCEDC, they are interested in joining the group. She is also working on grants.

**Business Development Update:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said development focus is being shifted to the east side of Rt 64. There has been interest in the old Magnolia Sweets location from a jewelry store owner. The owners of the location would provide retail and service options at the location. Collaboration with owners of empty downtown retail locations continues.

**TIF and Enterprise Zone Updates:** Mayor Ken Williams said Andy Shaw is working on the possibility of industry expansion. An Ohio based company has considered expanding to the area. He also said the TIF started in 2017. About seven hundred and seventeen thousand dollars of the one million dollars taken in has been spent. Terry Schuster stated the city will need a larger nest egg for any major development.

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

Chris Chapman provided his monthly report for the committee. He also shared demographic data with the committee.

Tom Mahoney said the school district has seen significant increases in all test scores across all subjects, the highest in the county. He believes PJ Caposey will be an incredible leader for the future of the school district. Don Griffin said he appreciates everything Tom has done for this group and community.

Mike Delaney said a youth retention program for local high school students has been created and is being funded by a grant. The program will educate them on the advantages of life in communities within Ogle County. He said the students will create a project to make their hometown "cooler."

Darin DeHaan said the Ogle County Health Department is currently working on building structures for a project called Homegrown Healthy. The program focuses on food and nutrition security.

Mike Glenn said CMAAA has held two photo workshops and a three-day workshop with about twenty artists, some staying overnight. He also said they will be holding their first themed multi artist exhibit, a one man play, and watercolor classes.

Chance Munroe has been working with the Rotary and Lions Club. He said there were about one hundred and fifty people in attendance for the Mother's Day brunch and about eighty attendees at the Stronghold Business After Hours event. A lunch and learn has been scheduled with Tony McCombie speaking.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton