

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday April 1st, 2025 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Rebecca Hazzard and Terry Schuster.

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

Present via Zoom: Don Griffin, Mike Delaney, Kim Ewoldsen, Erin Folk, and Chance Munroe.

Absent: PJ Caposey, Mike Glenn, and Phil Lehmann.

Don Griffin called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and called roll call. A quorum was present.

No public comment.

Chance Munroe moved to approve the March 4th, 2025 minutes, Seconded by Terry Schuster.

Motion carried. No nays.

Oregon and County Economic Development: Chris Manheim has been making a second round of calls to individuals interested in the area. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the county economic development group will be meeting on Good Friday to work on GIS overlays of vacant properties. He also said the group is helping Polo with additional housing projects.

Business Development Update: The city is still working with the Mongan's for the property located on Pines Road. City Manager Darin DeHaan and Council Member Melanie Cozzi met with a developer for an athletic sport center. Ted Hvarre shared a video on the Trestle Ridge subdivision. He said this will help people visualize what the finished subdivision will look like.

Budget Review: The new LED sign at Sarah Phelps Plaza was funded with Economic Development and TIF funds. Beautification is a large expense to the ECD fund. Watering services will be bid out. There are also a couple of façade grants coming up.

Façade Grant – Main Street Machine – 103 W. Washington Street: The request from the owner of the building is to replace windows. The owner of the building received a façade grant last year as well. The building is at an entrance to town and is aging. This façade grant will be funded with Economic Development funds.

Rebecca Hazzard moved to approve the façade grant for Main Street Machine – 103 W. Washington Street, Seconded by Terry Schuster.

Motion carried. No nays.

TIF and Enterprise Zone Updates: Tax abatement resolutions will be presented to colleges, school, fire department, and library for H.A International. The park district has already approved a resolution.

Chamber News/Schools/Community Events/CMAAA: Chance Munroe said there were about forty attendees at the Sustainability Lunch and Learn. Saturday is the Tastes and Treasures Shop Hop event. A Good Day Stateline segment aired last night, and the Rock River Retreat raffle ends on April 5th. The chamber is also working on a tourism community guide. They also welcomed two new businesses to the chamber.

Chris Manheim said he attended Rural Economic Development presentations at the extension office.

Darin DeHaan said the city received a marketing grant and is working with a5 marking. The first steering committee meeting is being held on Thursday.

Mayor Ken Williams has been in contact with representatives at Lorado Taft and the State. He said an update should be available in the next couple of weeks.

Mike Delaney said there is an upcoming online seminar on Rural Development being held April 17th from 12-1 pm.

Mayor Ken Williams reminded everyone to go vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton