

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday May 6th, 2025 5:00 PM

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

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

Present via Zoom: Mike Delaney, Kim Ewoldsen, and Mike Glenn.

Absent: PJ Caposey, Erin Folk, Rebecca Hazzard, and Chance Munroe.

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

No public comment.

Terry Schuster moved to approve the April 1st, 2025 minutes, Seconded by Tom Lehmann.

Motion carried. No nays.

Bird City Proclamation: Terry Schuster said he would like to pursue Bird City recognition for the City of Oregon. He said the city will need to approve a resolution. A bird walk has been scheduled for next week. Mayor Ken Williams read the Bird City Proclamation. He proclaimed May 10th, 2025 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Oregon.

Oregon and County Economic Development: Chris Manheim said he is continuing to make marketing updates. He said he had an increase in reactions on his Linked In posts. He also said the Brownsfield proposal was accepted. The presentation will be made at the conference in Chicago in August. The presentation is a marketing tool to let people know who we are. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Ogle County Economic Development Executive Director position will become a county appointed position. This will allow the executive director better benefits through the county. They have also finished reviewing applications and there were three well-qualified local candidates.

Business Development Update: City Manager Darin DeHaan said there is an individual interested in a location for a child play center. He is also working with a local builder on a property located on North 6th Street. He would like to build two homes on the lot. The builder also purchased a lot in the Settlers Ridge Subdivision. The builder hopes to build more but he wants to see how the market is first. The city also issued a building permit for a private build in the Settlers Ridge Subdivision.

Façade Grants:

Phil Lehmann moved to approve a Façade Grant for Allure Aesthetics and Beauty located at 217 W. Washington Street, Seconded by Terry Schuster.

Discussion: The owners plan to paint the façade of the building and add signage.

Motion carried. No nays.

Terry Schuster moved to approve a Façade Grant for Vicarioustyle/Vicariousalon located at 219 & 221 W. Washington Street, Seconded by Mike Glenn.

Discussion: The owners also plan to paint the façade of the building. These buildings are located at the beginning of the downtown historic district.

Motion carried. No nays.

TIF and Enterprise Zone Updates: A ribbon cutting was held at H.A. International. Mayor Ken Williams said they are looking to increase operations over the next four to five years. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he has received a couple of TIF inquiries. One from a potential drive through coffee shop and another for rehabbing the old M&M grocery store located on Pines Road. Don Griffin asked how TIF funds were prioritized. Mayor Ken Williams said the funds go towards small projects currently, funds are rolled over annually for riverfront development.

Chamber News/Schools/Community Events/CMAAA: Chamber of Commerce news included a ribbon cutting and open house for FodMart, the 2nd annual Mother's Day luncheon will be held this upcoming Sunday, and a business after hours will be held at Pegasus Special Riders on May 22nd from 5 to 6:30pm.

Terry Schuster discussed collaborating with the Oregon School District on ways to help prepare local businesses for population increases during school events. He said the chamber should let businesses know when events are scheduled to help them prepare. Darin DeHaan said there are not many restaurants that are chamber members. He also suggested posting QR codes at the school events to help people know the different restaurants that are open.

Mike Glenn said CMAAA will be hosting a high school senior art exhibit during the month of May. The students will be helping to set up the exhibit. A reception will be held on Friday from 5 to 6 pm. The following Friday there will be a World War II event. Focus on Photography runs through May 17th and Around the Farm event starts in June.

Mike Delaney said on May 20th there will be an online seminar on Green Infrastructure. People can register for the event on the University of Illinois Extension website.

Kim Ewoldsen said over the last few months they have had an increase in people buying and selling businesses. They are trying to accommodate everyone however a lot of clients have high goals without financial backing. She said if there are communities looking to entice small businesses, they should reach out to her.

Don Griffin asked for an update on the youth/young adult focus group. Terry Schuster said they have no set schedule. The city does reach out to individuals who were part of this group on specific items, however they have no particular project on which they are working.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton