



Economic Development Committee
Thursday, September 16, 2021 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cheryl Robertson called the Economic Development Committee meeting for September 16, 2021 to order at 10:02 am.

Members Present - Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher
Absent - None

Staff present - Jim Lenner - Village Manager, Marvin Block - Village Council, Bailey Klimchak - Village Planner, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

a. August 5, 2021

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Accept the minutes; Carol Van Deest seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

3. Build Back Better Regional Challenge Information Gathering

Jim Lenner reviewed program highlights. Still on track with creating the application, which is due October 19, 2021, hope to bring in seventy-five million dollars. HDR is our consultant working on the Mobility Hub and Innovation Center concept plan; \$35,000 was built into their contract for secondary costs related to grant work, \$20,000 comes from the village (ARPA funds) and a private sector partner paid \$15,000. Another \$35,000, if needed, was also built into the contract for the implementation plan. This first phase will be the concept,

2021 Committee Goals

1. Plan for and target types of employers the village wants to attract; Manufacturing, Commercial, Business Offices - Update ED Plan to solidify vision for facilities (By end of Q1)
 2. Develop a Comprehensive Plan for a future Incubator Space - Manager working to create a plan outline to share with CIC
 3. Develop common purpose with Park & Rec Committee to promote park and rec amenities; Eco-tourism.
 4. Enterprise Center Drive construction completion in 2021 - In progress
 5. Obtain rezoning of the remainder of the Enterprise Center land - Discussions ongoing
 6. Provide consistent communication on joint projects with the CIC - Minutes and verbal report on CIC agendas.
 7. Develop a business census - In progress
 8. Help facilitate formation of Chamber of Commerce - Enlist help from CIC and Licking County Chamber of Commerce
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if selected they would award us \$500,000 then we would work to develop the idea further and come back in March with a full application. Review of some regional partners, forty-five of the seventy-five million would stay here to redevelop 200 E. Coshocton and install a mobility hub, any broadband or water and sewer infrastructure needed, as well as bolster the idea of the mobility industry incubator. Would give money to potential regional partners Newark, Granville, Heath, Utica, Knox County, Sunbury; the idea is to develop seven mobility hubs in this region with ours being the big one; electric vehicles, charging stations, buses, transit, ride share, scooters, vertiport and infrastructure. Further discussion on process; committee in favor of Mr. Lenner working toward phase two in the time between phase one grant submission and award even though phase one may not be received. Jim Lenner said he purchased data software for \$8,000, coming out of the \$35,000, it is a year-long license, he needs data to back a lot of what is in the application.

4. Enterprise Center Update

a. CRA Project River Update

The company has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness and Variances for paving and parking; building design shown. Jim and Bailey asked for support at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting when applications are heard on the 28th. The CRA should be in front of Council shortly after if approved; CRA details provided. Jim Lenner updated that the village will be paying the third and final payment to the Port Authority; the road is ours, the Platt was recorded and we will be plowing it this winter. Once the closing takes place we will get our profit on the sale of the property, estimated at \$200,000, basically what we put into the land purchase.

5. Attracting New Business to the Downtown

Discussion on three empty storefronts downtown, a result of a building in disrepair. Buildings are owned by White Cross Lodge; discussion on public safety, staff to request Building Codes and Health Departments to get involved.

Post Office Alley has been surveyed and will be striped.

Discussion on installing a solar crossing light (rapid flash) at the Phalen crosswalk downtown to help people crossing to and from businesses. Discussion on cost, approximately \$5,000 plus installation, would want two, one on each side of the walk.

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to spend \$12,000 for rapid flashing beacons; Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Van Deest, Robertson, Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

Mr. Dutcher provided an update on lighting at the town hall. Current bulbs are too bright and harsh, new bulbs will be installed in two of the walkway lights to see if they are better.

No updates yet on what will happen to the old township fire station building.

Mr. Lenner updated that the Johnstown Family Restaurant will be selling; new owner has expressed interest in one of the Revitalization District liquor licenses.

Mr. Lenner updated that Horizon plans to have fiber to all homes by third quarter of next year; no cost to the village, just need help with permitting.

Mr. Lenner said no one was told the Ghostwriter hotel was going to be public, believes it is appropriate however; had village planner draft an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow use, currently tabled by the Planning Commission. Mayor Dutcher said to bring it to council, he would be happy to make the motion. Discussion on imposing lodging tax so the village gets its percentage.

6. CIC updates/Incubator Board selection

No updates, still waiting on IRS and tax exemption status.

7. Mobility Hub update

Discussed during the Build Back Better Challenge agenda item.

8. Project Mastodon Update

No updates, project is progressing.

9. Water/Sewer Extension; Croton-Hartford Update

Administrator met with Rick Black and Village Council, Mr. Lenner said he heard the meeting went well enough that they are not saying no, thinks they will only say yes if they get the grant money to assist residents with tap fees.

10. Other Business

1. Carol Van Deest; referenced committee goal to "Develop common purpose with Park & Rec committee to promote park and rec amenities; ecotourism" and said she has created a postcard promoting Trailhead Park activities and locations. She has also been working on the village website to add photos and information on each of the village parks.

2. Dog Park fencing is being installed. Discussion on some areas still to clean up at the Trailhead Park; also discussed a pedestrian walking path from the trailhead to the dog park.

11. Adjourn

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to Adjourn; Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Vision Statement: The Village of Johnstown is dedicated to providing a secure community environment that fosters cultural, recreational, educational and economic opportunities while preserving our unique historical character