



Economic Development Committee
Friday, April 1, 2022 - 9:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called the Economic Development Committee meeting for April 1, 2022 to order at 9:05 am

Members Present - Chip Dutcher, Doug Lehner
Absent - None

Staff present - Jack Liggett, Bailey Klimchak, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

a. March 4, 2022

Minutes were approved as written 2-0.

3. Updates/Discussion

Johnstown will host a Mayor's briefing on April 8, 2022 at 1:00. Governor's office liaison Scott Ryan will present to provide Intel updates.

Johnstown will host another briefing on Intel for Johnstown businesses on April 21, 2022 at 9:00 am. Mayor Dutcher is hopeful that a representative of Intel will attend to answer their own questions; Mayor Dutcher is working on the list of panelists to also include the Deputy Director of One Columbus, Scott Ryan, Rick Platt/Port Authority, Alexis Fitzsimmons/GROW Licking County and others.

Mayor Dutcher provided an update on the Licking County group Welcome Intel, made up of the Chamber, GROW Licking County, the Port Authority and various others, noted that he is on the communications committee. They are putting together a website and a physical newsletter in an effort to kill off unwanted false stories and get out factual information.

The Ohio Department of Development's (Ohio DOD) Director hosted a meeting, Mayor Dutcher attended along with the Siekman's and Laurel Dawson from the Governor's office. Mayor Dutcher said he presented a wish list for Johnstown's needed projects, it was not meant to be totally inclusive but to give them an idea of things Johnstown would like to be in the running for. They talked about the water plant, the wastewater plant, water lines etc., there were no commitments.

Committee and staff discussion on sources and availability of water for Intel; commitment from Columbus city water, Kurtz Brothers statement, Del-Co water, Jack Liggett expressed great concern for potential future stress on the aquifers. Discussion on water line extension and potential routes as well as some conversations with the New Albany Company.

Mayor Dutcher added that he also had a discussion with the Ohio DOD Director about the

mastodon site and the research done on getting a life-sized replica. He said the director controls the travel budget and she asked him to send along the information.

Mayor Dutcher said additionally discussed in the meeting were roads, to include how a round-a-bout at US 62 and SR 37 could fit, the Mink Road bridges and the Mobility Hub. Mr. Dutcher said that the Ohio DOD Director has asked Johnstown to move forward with the Mobility Hub and that they would be supportive of it. Johnstown staff is working to complete an application for a RAISE grant, Planner Bailey Morlan expressed concern that LCATS previously gave money to someone else because we did not have control over the hub property, she said we need an MOU with Tech International and terms laid out for Johnstown to have control of the property or we will not receive the grant. Chip Dutcher to talk with Tech International's Dan Layne. Mayor Dutcher added that we have a commitment from the Director of ODOT, that he will be issuing a letter in support of the hub for the grant. It was noted that this is a total reimbursement grant and the application is due in two weeks.

Mr. Dutcher said he also talked to them about the Raccoon Park Trail plan and TAP grant as well as the need for planning dollars in general. Jack Liggett said there is a need for a new overall plan of the area and to be inclusive of Green Chapel and outlying properties, that we need to have a company come in, we need to show them what we want. Ms. Klimchak said they may need to look at zoning as well, reviewing the zoning code draft once every two weeks is unfortunately not working, just when we think it's good, something changes, would like to have someone be able to devote full time hours and get in place. Jack Liggett said he and Chip have been looking at bringing in the Woolpert team to handle these things. Doug Lehner said the staff are doing their very best, we have been hit with the perfect storm and need help with a new Master Plan and zoning. Discussion on the need for additional staff and more than a one percent tax rate.

Mayor Dutcher provided additional updates; Dunkin' Donuts going in 62 BBQ location; Urgent Care going in on the empty lot next to the HNB; ODOT has rented an office and moved in, unsure for what project(s). Doug Lehner said that residents of Woodgate apartments have been given notice to move out, why is unknown, staff to investigate. Johnstown businesses Curaleaf and Armstrong Steel Ceilings are both planning expansion, the Church of the Ascension is planning a big addition and are in the process of getting an electronic sign. Horizon to attend an upcoming council meeting for presentation, they will be providing fiber optics to Johnstown and Alexandria.

4. Other Business

1. Jack Liggett provided an update on the ODOT city salt order, money in his budget will get 523 tons.
2. Design cost for the water plant upgrade is 1.2 million. Jacob's Engineering has nominated us for minimal interest financing, they need to start design now, they will not bill us until the nomination is approved in August, and if the nomination does not happen, they will not bill us.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.