



Economic Development Committee
Thursday, September 3, 2020 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cheryl Robertson called the Economic Development Committee meeting for September 3, 2020 to order at 10:01 am

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

Staff present - Jim Lenner, Bailey Klimchak, Marvin Block, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to Approve; Chip Dutcher seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: 3

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3 - 0

3. Incubator Space Update

Bailey Klimchak said last time committee met it was decided there was more information needed on incubator versus Co-work spaces so she spoke with several other municipalities in the area. Ms. Klimchak said she learned differences; Co-work space is where an independent worker would pay rent only for their space; Incubator space is different in that it is for small businesses, not just one person, and that space would provide support to that business in the form of connections with other local businesses and how to grow or how to finance the business. Bailey recommends going forward with the feasibility study **if** the village is going to do an Incubator space; questions on interest of property owners need to be answered before going forward as there should be a specific location chosen for the feasibility study. Ms. Klimchak also noted that if there is private ownership the village cannot apply for EDA funds; Mr. Lenner said if not going for federal money then the feasibility study is not needed. Ms. Klimchak asked for input, thoughts and committee recommendation; committee discussion on potential properties and owners they would reach out to for discussion. Bailey to coordinate the meeting and let committee know.

4. Project Updates

1. Project Circuit - Mr. Lenner said a meeting with the State on Friday will determine eligibility for a lot of things but will dive deeper into the jobs they would create.
2. Project Mastodon - State Department Of Transportation slow pace, no update.
3. Project Gibraltar - Negotiations paused due to COVID; no conversations in the last three months.
4. Bleckmann - Update on possible relocation; lease is up in November of 2021, Mr. Lenner to send out job and tax numbers. Discussion on this building as well as other buildings in the Business Park.

5. Other Business/Member comments

1. Discussion on other potential projects since not going forward with the 310 water line; the project would have to be funds designated for water. Talked about increasing the new water tower size from half million gallon to one million gallon as well as potential water line routes.
2. Ms. Van Deest asked if there was any update on what the old fire house will be used for; unknown at this time, but new occupant would need to pay for water tap.
3. Ms. Van Deest asked if there were any plans to upgrade Post Office Alley, that it looks bad and should be addressed. Bailey will check to see if there are any grants available to assist; Mr. Lenner mentioned GROW Licking County and their revolving loan fund, low or zero interest. Mr. Block said some private property owners are working to clean up their lots; committee discussion on dumpsters and dilapidated structures in the alley.
4. Inquiry on when the new nursing home plans to open; Ms. Klimchak will check in with them.
5. Mayor Dutcher asked about accounting on the US62 project, was there any money left; Mr. Lenner noted change orders submitted by the engineer. Mr. Dutcher said he was asking if there was money left to plant trees to beautify the entry to town; Mr. Lenner said he would know more in about sixty days, change orders will need to be evaluated. Ms. Robertson asked about the twelve thousand dollars budgeted for Tree City; Ms. Klimchak said trees will be planted in front of Subway and are still planning to get trees for the postponed Arbor Day, but that will not use the entire amount, some of the money could be used for tree planting along US62. Discussion on the Memorial Tree Fund that will be set up, where those trees would be planted and how memorial plaques could work, discussion to continue in Tree Commission committee.
6. Mayor Dutcher asked about the Parkdale Drive traffic pattern discussion by the public; Mr. Lenner said he prepared a narrative to put out to the public.
7. Mayor Dutcher thanked Planner Bailey Klimchak for her work on the recently passed Comprehensive Plan. Committee discussion on letters of interest for a Design Review Committee, not advertising yet.

6. Adjourn

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to Adjourn; Chip Dutcher seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: 3

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.