



Economic Development Committee
Thursday, June 4, 2020 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Public present; Matt Lyons

Staff present: Jim Lenner, Bailey Klimchak, Teresa Monroe, Jack Liggett (arrived during EDA item)

2. Action on Minutes

a. April 14, 2020

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

AYES: Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

3. Johnstown Entrepreneurial Center Introduction (Jim L)

Jim Lenner previously initiated conversations on an idea for attracting young entrepreneurs, some technology, innovation, co-work space in Johnstown and how to do it. Matt Lyons, COO and Co-founder of iVueit gave background on the company and how it was founded, current headquarters are in Westerville with a satellite office in Johnstown. Matt was present to discuss exploring the possibility of bringing a co-work or incubator space to Johnstown, has interest in creating a space to attract young entrepreneurs and plans to have a fund to provide financial and professional resources. There was discussion on spaces potentially available in town for offices, as well as discussion on this being a venture of the new CIC; Johnstown budgeted \$15,000 to invest. Cheryl Robertson asked about tax revenue, Matt provided figures for 2019, 2020 and anticipated for 2021. Matt said he would need to have discussion with his partners, Carol asked about protection for Johnstown, Matt is unsure what guarantees Johnstown would want but said he is local to Johnstown and would want to make this work. If Johnstown would invest, Matt assured the village would be able to market for Economic Development. Next steps would be to sit down with building owners who have space for rent and discuss financial aspects.

ACTION:	Chip Dutcher moved to authorize Jim Lenner to explore possibilities for incubator space in Johnstown; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 3 - 0

4. EDA Cares Act Grant Application discussion (Bailey)

This grant would be Economic Development Administration Federal money directed at the effects of COVID-19. Projects to submit were discussed: updating the 2015 Downtown Economic Development (ED) Development Plan; ED advertisement in local papers, magazines or websites to attract businesses looking for a home; aesthetics of the downtown buildings, moving the electric poles to rear of properties. Carol Van Deest brought up implementing a Chamber of Commerce, which could tie in to the ED advertisement and promotion.

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to Authorize staff spending time to apply for the grant; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follow:
AYES: Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

5. Website Update (Bailey)

Council previously authorized five thousand dollars for set up of a new village website. The Request for Proposal was released May 27th with a submission deadline of June 10, 2020.

6. Member Comments

Jack Liggett noted delay on the bid opening for phase one (rehab and lining) of the Valleyview sewer project; bid opening moved from June 9th to the 16th.

7. Adjourn

Committee moved to adjourn; all in favor 3-0. Adjourn time 11:00 am