



Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, Aug 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

City Hall and Zoom Conference Call

Minutes

1. Called to Order at 6:09pm
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Rob Hoffmann, Mitch Seiberling, Scott DeVries, Mayor Chad Alleger, Council members Christy Lindsey and Deb Townsend, City Admin Jodie Wyman, JEDCO Exec Dir Jeff Davidson, Hometown Pride Rep Sue Ponder
 - b. Excused: Tim Havenstrite, Mason Nickols
3. **Approval of Agenda**—Rob moved to approve, seconded; no discussion; approved unanimously
4. **Approval of Minutes** (from June 23, 2021 meeting)— Rob moved to approve, seconded; no discussion; approved unanimously
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Commission officers**—with excused absences decided to table election of officers to next meeting
 - b. **IEDA Catalyst grant update**—project has been paused for the past six months due to lumber prices; have reached out to IEDA about the possibility of an extension; seems that there are other projects that are in the same position due to COVID/lumber/derecho impacts; appears that IEDA will offer an extension if the 60% has been reimbursed before the initial deadline (project will easily exceed the 60K threshold through expenses on brickwork and new roof which will all be completed well before June 2022 deadline); asking city council to petition IEDA for at least a 6 month extension (to December 2022).
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Live, Work, Play Flyer**—working to get the group together, has been a bit complicated with vacations and summer schedules.
 - b. **Wayfinding Signs**—draft information submitted to IDOT, working to schedule a time to discuss latest comments/concerns on draft; once approved then can formalize the plan and start to work on budget for program
 - c. **JEDCO / Prairie City Downtown grant programs**—JEDCO has received one application and working with another one to finalize; after discussion on downtown grant programs, moved to present a modified Prairie City Façade Improvement program based on the JEDCO program increasing the city contribution to 10K—this

would be a one-time program intended to take advantage of the JEDCO matching funds; group would then continue to work on studying and determining what changes are needed to the existing Downtown Revitalization program.

d. Real Estate Update

- i. **Commercial Property update / availability**—not much change since last meeting, addition of former Moore Manufacturing building (9030 S 80th Ave W)
- ii. **Housing Project Update**—may need to seek out a potential developer for next phases of south housing development; no further update from townhome development
- e. **Red Rock Prairie Trail Update**—October bid letting; need to select construction admin thru IDOT; uncertain on approval of congressional discretionary funding request (1.5 million); working with Corps of Engineers and Marion County to extend the Volks Trail to Hwy 14 and then north 3 miles to connect to planned Red Rock Prairie Trail in Monroe.
- f. **EDC (Corporation) Update**—site plan received, reviewed and sent back to developer on the west plot; limited interest in the center plots to date
- g. **JEDCO Update**—small grants program available to communities to promote economic development; downtown grant program first app from Monroe, working with Colfax on another; ISU Sip and See event for other liquor providers in Mahaska, Marion and Jasper; Jasper Farm Crawl coming up; Mid Iowa Development fund has available money for requests; census data was released and cities are in the process of reviewing; broadband study has been finished and now working with private industry to meet needs and secure government funding; Mahaska Communications Group committing to extend broadband access to Newton; CoLine Manufacturing has broken ground on new Jasper County extension
- h. **Hometown Pride Update**—no update

7. **General Discussion**—No further discussion

8. Next Meeting: September 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM City Hall/Zoom Meeting

9. Adjourned 8:10pm