MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Thursday, October 8, 2015
7:00 PM
City Hall – City Manager’s Office

Attendees:
David Schneider - District 1
Ross Little – District 2
Peter Stocks - District 4
Bob O’Brien - Business
Jim Gailey – City Manager
Josh Reny – Asst. City Manager

Absent:
Ed Palmer – Business Greg Perry - District 3
William Collins - District 5 Craig Gorris - Business
Steve Bushey - At-Large Justin Leblanc - Business
Vacant - At-Large Fawn Dunphy - Business

1. Approval of Minutes (Quorum was not present)

2. Economic Development Plan Discussion

   Karl – Did a brief recap of October 1st community workshop

   Peter – Recapped some of the themes that came from his table

   Ross – Brought up the internet/3-ring binder high speed service

   Group – Talked about some issues they heard from participants

   Group – Talked about Councilors participating in the next workshop and whether that was good or bad.

   Group – Talked about where the majority of the participation came from in relationship those who took the survey.
Karl – Discussed the preliminary findings to date and community support around each item.

Karl – Listed four common themes:

1. Branding/Marketing
   a. Market City (not for tourism)
   b. Be active in regional real estate (prospecting)
   c. Visit existing businesses
   d. How to do it – Non-profit corporation running econ dev.

2. Entrepreneurial/Small Business Development
   a. Grow your own vs. trying to attract
   b. Corporation taking lead and running trainings
   c. Local awards program
   d. Help promote more sustainable practices

3. Workforce Development
   a. Work with various agencies to develop and train people
   b. Create a career ladder approach
   c. Direct businesses to access training
   d. Create an expanded career program at schools

4. Promote Development of Underutilized Sites
   a. Reach out to property owners and potentially court them with incentives and/or capable developer

Ross – Asked about the concept of a non-profit economic development corporation and how it would relate to the Asst. Manager’s position now. Where does money come from if a corporation is established?

David – How many employees are typically brought on? Karl answered at least 1.5 people

Peter – Asked about TIF’s and the background of TIF’s

Karl – Will write up a summary of the Committee discussion and share with other committee members not in attendance

Next community workshop – November 17th from 6-8pm at Community Center

Adjourned: 8:55 pm

Cordially,

Jim Gailey, City Manager