

**CITY OF MASCOUTAH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

The minutes of the Regular Virtual Meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Mascoutah.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Donna Mae Schlueter called the meeting to start at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Donna Mae Schlueter, Charles Jefferson, Keith Cook, Tim Boyce, Brent Bergheger, Tony Sax, and Bill Millikin.

Absent: None.

Other Staff Present: City Manager Brad Myers, Assistant City Manager Kari Speir, and Mayor Jerry Daugherty.

There was a quorum of commission members.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 5, 2021 Economic Development Commission meeting were presented and approved as presented.

BOARD BUSINESS

Commission member Jefferson moved to amend the agenda to move board business from discussion “B” back to “A” and “A” back to “B”. There was no opposition.

Chairperson Schlueter asked if all Commission members received the copy of the Economic Development Commission Code. Sax confirmed that this is the most updated Code, which was revised in February 2020. Schlueter complemented the Great Streets Survey. Mayor Daugherty stated that before the next City Council meeting on February 16, Paul from East West Gateway will be giving a presentation on the survey if anyone would want to participate.

Chairperson Schlueter asked if all plans for the MidAmerica Airport expansion has been approved, which Assistant City Manager stated that everything was approved in 2019. Schlueter asked if any subsidiary companies are interested in opening due to the airport expansion, which City Manager stated that he has heard some of some office and warehousing.

Schlueter asked if Fred’s Hardware had sold, which Myers stated the building has been sold.

Schlueter asked if the Economic Development Commission had a budget. City Manager stated there is a budget for Economic Development Expenses. Schlueter questioned if the money the City receives from gaming in town is deposited into the general fund, could the Economic Development Commission utilize some of those funds if needed. City Manager stated that would be an amended budget request. Jefferson asked for an overview of what the money in this budget could be used for. City Manager stated it could be used for conferences, material distribution, and various other things. Jefferson asked what the process would be if the EDC needed funds. City Manager explained the process of making purchases either via check or by using the City credit card, but requests do need to be approved by Chairperson Schlueter and the City.

Schlueter asked if it would be possible to bring various companies in to show them what Mascoutah has to offer, as opposed to them just believing that Mascoutah is too small and does not have enough visibility. City Manager said he could offer, however they do marketing studies prior to making a decision, they have always come back and said Mascoutah is “too small”.

Schlueter stated she has given City Manager a list of contacts for possibly bringing businesses to town. Schlueter stated that updating the land and zoning maps should be the responsibility of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board. Schlueter stated that efforts should be focused on the Route 4 corridor and the airport expansion area.

Jefferson stated that he would like to put together an incubator proposal and get started on it since it will take months to put together; he feels that an incubator could bring a lot of economic development growth. Jefferson does not want to “focus on one project” and forget about something that he feels could be beneficial.

Commission members discussed their role and responsibilities as a committee. Commission members discussed identifying goals and objectives, making a list of prospects, planned use for certain areas to be developed, updating economic development related publications, and assigning tasks to commission members.

Millikin stated he has accumulated a list of goals, objectives, tasks and responsibilities from members. These include:

- To serve City residents and discover what new businesses the residents would like to see in town.
- Establish a small business incubator that is partners with Fairview Heights.
- Establish a Mascoutah Investment Club for capital.
- Make a presentation to existing businesses for workforce development funds.
- Determine the EDC budget.
- Develop a clear plan to attract new residents to Mascoutah.
- Follow up on the YMCA survey and work with the Gateway YMCA to bring a facility to Mascoutah.
- Choose two projects from the Great Streets projects and complete them.
- Development and support of a business park around Route 4.

- Identify resources within business organizations to help businesses locate in Mascoutah.
- Research grants to help businesses expand and improve their businesses.
- Survey residents via social media to discover what services they would like to see in Mascoutah.
- Understand how to possibly develop a large area of land within a floodplain and develop it accordingly.
- Ask the City to commit to specific things with the purpose of Economic Development (time/money/expertise).
- Create a resolution with businesses along the main roads in town.
- Work with St. Clair County Economic Development.
- Have a theme for our community. How do we want to brand Mascoutah?
- Update the Economic Development incentive package.
- Focus on rapid incentives for residential development and residential ownership.
- Creating and improving incentives for home ownership.
- Create a Beautify Mascoutah program.

Commission member Boyce suggested sending this list out prior to the next meeting so that each member can choose his or her top three suggestions. Mayor stated the incentive package does need to be updated; however, it will not fully be revised unless the EDC makes that decision to do so. Millikin reiterated that once the EDC develops their goals, a new and revised incentive package would need to be developed so that the EDC can meet their goals.

The next regular meeting will be on March 2nd, 2021 at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Millikin moved, seconded by Cook, to adjourn **at 7:14 p.m.**

Motion passed. Passed by unanimous yes voice vote.

Julia Biggs, Executive Assistant