

Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Board's October 4, 2022 Meeting

I. Call to Order

Present: Jason Curtis, Jim Kelly, Rod Zinn, Wayne Stephany, Paul Yaroslaski

Absent: Chuck Goad, Lori Kelley

Guests: Miranda Bruening

Ex Officio: April Nutt, Tabatha Snodgrass, Riley Lukomski

Paul Yaroslaski, Secretary, called the meeting to order.

II. Minutes

a. August 2, 2022 Minutes - Draft

Motion:

On the motion of Jim Kelly, seconded by Paul Yaroslaski the Commission Approved the August 2, 2022 minutes.

Aye: Jason Curtis, Jim Kelly, Rod Zinn, Wayne Stephany, Paul Yaroslaski

Nay: None

III. Action Items

IV. Discussion

a. Broadband Update

Lori Kelley sent out an email update on the broadband improvements. There are now several entities interested in placing fiber in Independence. Blue Peak, Kwikom and Nextlink are the companies looking at Independence. Blue Peak has the best service reviews and pricing. They are working on a proposal to provide fiber in Independence in early 2023. Kwikom applied for a grant but is looking at 2024 before they can get fiber in. The Commission committed up to \$150,000 towards broadband improvements as a stipulation for the County grant. Right now everything is holding until the State makes their grant determination.

b. Electric Charging Stations

KDOT is set to receive \$39.5 million to build EV charging infrastructure. The question the board is considering is how Independence can get charging stations put in, should they be put in downtown and whether the City should pursue this as infrastructure improvement.

Lacey Lies said that in trying to draw in new residents, charging stations need to be put in because more people are buying electric cars and there are only a

Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Board's October 4, 2022 Meeting

couple places where they can charge.

Jim Kelly said there is \$2.5 million in discretionary grants for different types of fueling and he will research this with his contacts.

Rod Zinn said his company has laid out several charging stations and public charging stations are great, but places like motels should also have them for overnight guests.

April Nutt said there are also private interests looking to place charging stations.

c. Downtown Development Update

Miranda Bruening said that a developer had contacted her about the downtown buildings and was interested in developing them into 20 residences and 10 commercial areas. They would be using grants, loans and their own money. For the residences they are looking at studio apartments and two bed/one bath apartments. Refurbishing the buildings will bring utility costs down that hinder potential businesses.

d. Other Business

V. Adjournment

Motion:

On the motion of Rod Zinn, seconded by Paul Yaroslaski the Commission Adjourned the meeting.

Aye: Jason Curtis, Jim Kelly, Rod Zinn, Wayne Stephany, Paul Yaroslaski

Nay: None

Charles W Goad

Charles W Goad (Dec 30, 2022 09:12 CST)

Chuck Goad, Chairperson

Paul Yaroslaski

Paul Yaroslaski, Secretary