

Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Board's August 8, 2023 Meeting

I. Call to Order

Present: Keith Stone, Jason Curtis, Wayne Stephany, Chuck Goad, Jim Kelly, Rod Zinn, Lori Kelley

Absent: None

Chuck Goad, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

II. Minutes

- a. Consider approving minutes of the June 6, 2023 Economic Development Advisory Board meeting.

Motion:

On the motion of Wayne Stephany, seconded by Keith Stone the Commission approved the June 6, 2023 Economic Development Advisory Board minutes.

Aye: Jason Curtis, Rod Zinn, Jim Kelly, Chuck Goad, Wayne Stephany, Keith Stone

Nay: None

III. Action Items

- a. Consider a request from Main Street to change the licensing requirements for Food Trucks.

Tabatha Snodgrass said that the Food Truck fees are high for this area and that they are more in line with larger cities. A more reasonable amount would be \$10.00 per day, \$25.00 for two weeks, \$50.00 for 30 days and \$200.00 per year, plus proof of insurance and Kansas sales tax. Food trucks bring in people from surrounding communities. Small downtown businesses have said the food trucks are not hurting them. Patio 210 does not charge for setting up there.

Lacey Lies suggested having only one application fee per year.

The board discussed the importance of inviting people in, but also taking care of those who are already here, paying taxes in a brick and mortar building.

Kelly Passauer stated that from the staff's point of view, the City could go with the \$10.00 per day and one application fee per year, but not in lowering the other fees.

Chuck Goad said that if the City Commission or staff want the committee to work with them on a recommendation, then that can be done.

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Lacey Lies will put together a proposal and bring it back to the next meeting.

- b. Consider creating a sub-committee to review and report on the Extension of Services Policies.

Chuck Goad explained that there are instances where a building project takes place outside of city limits. The City can either annex or extend services. A subcommittee could gather facts and bring back to the board.

Keith Stone, Wayne Stephany and Jason Curtis volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Rod Zinn will be an alternate member.

IV. Discussion

- a. Broadband Update

Lori Kelley said that Cox Communication came to the City and wanted to put in some infrastructure for businesses. The initial place had some problems and now they are looking at City-owned land behind Appletree Inn. KwiKom are looking to put in fiber optic at residences.

Kelly Passauer said that the location behind Appletree Inn has not been approved by the City Commission.

- b. EV Charging Update

Lori Kelley is going to the Commission on Thursday to get permission for proposals for EV Charging stations.

- c. Downtown Building Grant Update

Lacey Lies said that there are funds available for this year. There is a maximum of \$25,000 per building regardless of owner. There should be a limit on this like there is on the Neighborhood Exterior Grant Program.

April Nutt said that the Downtown Building Grant was started because the historical downtown buildings were falling down.

- d. Neighborhood Exterior Grant Program Update

Lacey Lies said this is out of funding until January 1, 2024.

- e. Montgomery County Action Council Updates

Melissa Johnson, the new MCAC Director, introduced herself to the board.

- f. Main Street Updates

Tabatha Snodgrass said the common consumption district plans are moving forward.

- g. Chamber Updates

Lisa Wilson said they are continuing to meet potential business owners through B.E.S.T. and there have been several inquiries.

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h. Other Items for Discussion

April Nutt says she is hopeful that they will move forward with the Jefferson development. Independence will be hosting a housing conference. HA is working with several developments within the city.

Kelly Passauer stated that the City has received three proposals for the Comp Plan and are working on having this done by the end of the month.

V. Adjournment

Motion:


On the motion of Rod Zinn, seconded by Wayne Stephany the Commission adjourned the meeting.

Aye: Jason Curtis, Rod Zinn, Lori Kelley, Jim Kelly, Chuck Goad, Wayne Stephany, Keith Stone

Nay: None



Chuck Goad, Chairperson



Jason Curtis, Secretary