

Economic Development Commission Minutes  
March 27, 2023  
City Hall  
12:00 PM

**Class 1 Members Present:** Chairman Lonnie Bathurst, Vice-Chairman Paul Osborne, Tim Burenga, Dan Fleming, Ron Norris, Kent Redfern, Bob Reid, Mark Stieren, Mike Treece

**Class 1 Members Absent:** Ken Elmore, Earl Flack, Tom Franzen, Lindsey Garner

**Class 2 Members Present:** Dave Hollo, Ray Kellenberger

**Guests Present:** Jim Timpe – CEO St Francis Hospital/Litchfield, Gregory Fuerstenau – Superintendent Litchfield Schools, Kaitlyn Ruben- Systemax, Jacob Throneburg – Curaleaf

**Other City Representatives Present:** Mayor Steve Dougherty, Interim City Administrator Austin Edmondson, Economic Development Director Tonya Flannery, Consultant Mary Renner

Chairman Bathurst called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tim Burenga made a motion with Mark Stieren seconding the motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 30, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

**Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Bathurst welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bathurst shared his vision for the EDC to be more active ambassadors to the community. He also proposed to have the Business Retention Program reinstated. Members of the commission agreed and gave feedback on previous business visits.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Dougherty expressed caution in engaging on social media but appreciates the efforts of the EDC to get factual information out to the public. He shared about the political forum and some of the comments presented in the discussion. He commented to the EDC that a decision on the railroad crossing repairs is needed soon to avoid any issues.

**New Business:**

- A presentation was provided by Systemax on the draft of the marketing piece for the new industrial park. Commissioners gave feedback and revisions will be made. A new draft will be provided at the next meeting.
- A presentation by Curaleaf was given to update the commission on its plans for the property north of the production facility. It was stated no official plans have been made for expansion but was requesting the railroad spur and easement be vacated from the east portion of the property to where the tracks end on their property. A follow up meeting with the Facility manager will be coordinated to discuss further.

**Old Business**

- None

**Economic Development Office Report:**

- Flannery shared an update for the Economic Development Office. A new report format will be used to give bullet points that the commissioners can use to share about current efforts.

**Guest/Commissioner Reports:**

- Gregg Fuerstenau – stated that the new elementary facility is substantially complete, fencing, parking lot and playground are expected in April for construction/installation. The Superintendent also gave the status of the “other” elementary schools. He also shared updates on the Innovation Center and the partnerships the facility has developed for the center. He expressed interest in potential solar farm to supply services to the schools and unit office.
- Jim Timpe – shared plans for renovation of the orthopedic facility and future plans to expand it with new construction. Stated the landscaping is only delayed this year as they are working with an outside contractor.
- Mike Treece – stated not to forget about cell service needs at the lake area. The Mayor asked Interim Administrator Edmondson to follow up with ATT on the cell tower.
- Ray Kellenberger – inquired about the restaurant prospect. EDD Flannery responded that they had only provided that it was quick service.
- Austin Edmondson – shared that the new ambulance was on its way to Litchfield and would be in service by the end of the week.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Bob Reid and seconded by Tim Burenga to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 P.M. All in favor, motion carried.