

Economic Development Commission Minutes
May 22, 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, Ken Elmore, Scott Voumard for Lindsey Garner

Class 1 Members Absent: Earl Flack, Tom Franzen

Class 2 Members Present: Alderman Ray Kellenberger

Guests Present: Jim Timpe – CEO St Francis Hospital/Litchfield, Gregory Fuerstenau – Superintendent Litchfield Schools, Jessie Blackburn- LLCC

Other City Representatives Present: Mayor Steve Dougherty, Economic Development Director Tonya Flannery

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 March 27, 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.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Dougherty shared about a couple of projects happening; the AT&T tower that is planned for the Lake Lou Yaeger Area and the new council which had been seated. He expressed gratitude for the outgoing aldermen and said it was a loss for the City as they had over 30 years combined experience.

New Business:

- Kent Redfern made a motion with Mike Treece seconding the motion to elect Lonnie Bathurst as Chair and Paul Osborne as the Vice Chair for the 2023-24 fiscal year. All were in favor.
- Chairman Bathurst shared thoughts on establishing EDC working committees to utilize the experience of the EDC members and to engage the group in ED initiatives. The Committees outlined are as follows:
 - Industrial Committee Tim Burenga & Lindsey Garner
 - Commercial Committee Mike Treece & Earl Flack
 - Housing Committee Paul Osborne, Tom Franzen & Kent Redfern
 - Quality of Life Committee Mark Stieren & Bob Reid
 - Finance/Executive Committee Ken Elmore, Dan Fleming, Ron Norris, Lonnie Bathurst

Old Business

- Marketing Brochure draft is awaiting a URL change to complete the QR code.

Economic Development Office Report:

- Flannery shared an update for the Economic Development Office. The new report format gives bullet points that the commissioners can use to share about current efforts.

Guest/Commissioner Reports:

- Bob Reid – Complimented the school on a nice graduation ceremony. He mentioned the stairs in the gymnasium are steep and dangerous and need railing.
- Mayor Dougherty – Interim Administrator Edmondson's last day is Friday. Breann Vasquez will start at the end of June as City Administrator.
- Gregg Fuerstenau – Shared Kilton Fund award for stage area to become Kilton Performing Arts. Stated that the new elementary facility is complete except for the glass for doors. 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.
- Jessie Blackburn – Summer session starts June 6th, College Now program has tripled from last year, working with districts on dual enrollment for fall.
- Tim Burenga – Worksaver is under construction of new office areas and front entry of the building. He also suggested engaging the manufacturing committee for the SCI.
- Kent Redfern – shared that through Living Stones sale of the property, scholarships were established to assist students wishing to take vocational courses in partnership with SCI.
- Scott Voumard – introduced himself to the commissioners.
- Ken Elmore – invited the group to a fundraising luncheon on June 27th for Rep Wayne Rosenthal.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tim Burenga and seconded by Mark Stieren to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 P.M. All in favor, motion carried.