

**REGULAR MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY OF OAKDALE
FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Oakdale was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at the Oakdale City Hall, Oakdale, Minnesota. Chair Whillock called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Steve Whillock

Commissioners: Stacie Penn
Frank Orsello
Bill Burns
Christine Harriman
Holly Koep

Absent: Danny Lee
Dave Halper
Scott Oechsner
Gary Livingston
Robert Stiglich
Jodi Christensen

Also Present: Linnea Graffunder-Bartels, Senior Community Development Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER PENN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018.

ALL AYES.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF 2019 COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BURNS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ORSELLO TO NOMINATE STEVE WHILLOCK AS CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

ALL AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BURNS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PENN TO NOMINATE JODI CHRISTENSEN AS VICE CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

ALL AYES

2019-2020 PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels reported that City Council has approved the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and projects for 2020. Focus will be implementation of the following in 2019-2020.

- a. Develop Marketing/Attraction Program. Work with web partners to enhance website and promote land available for commercial businesses.
- b. Explore Business to Business Purchasing Program. Increase local purchasing between businesses, connecting shoppers and buyers.
- c. Explore and Assess Living Wage Job Obstacles. Assess the needs of struggling residents with focus on daycare, transportation and living wage.

Commissioner Whillock asked if subsidizing is available for parents who work but do not make enough to pay for daycare?

Commissioner Penn answered that there are early learning scholarships for preschoolers. She has more information and will provide Ms. Graffunder-Bartels with a list. Transportation is also an issue for many families.

Commissioner Harriman commented the biggest challenge with childcare assistance is a two year waiting list for families.

Commissioner Whillock suggested Oakdale consider a transit/shuttle service. One possibility is retirees volunteering to drive.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels reported that staff plans to engage residents of the Twenty Nine Pines Mobile Home Park to gather information regarding barriers they encounter for housing, work force support and neighborhood quality of life and how things could improve.

Commissioner Orsello commented that Landfall Mobile Home Park has improved since its revitalization and Commissioner Burns suggested using Landfall as a model for Twenty Nine Pines.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels mentioned the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Oriented Development project continues to move forward. Commissioner Whillock mentioned that Mayor Reinke, Washington County Commissioner Karwoski and Marc Cove are currently in San Diego, CA checking out their bus line system.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels provided an overview of the following ongoing economic development programs.

- a. Minnesota Investment Fund Program (MIF). Forgivable loan program partnered with MNDEED to increase living wage jobs. OSM has utilized their program. Commissioner Burns suggested advertising this program to Oakdale's industrial landlords.
- b. Business Retention & Expansion. Continue visits to Oakdale businesses to retain/increase living wage jobs and tax base.
- c. Building Rehabilitation Loan Program. Commercial loan program for exterior improvements. Blue Ribbon Bait used for new parking lot.
- d. Oakdale First Policy. Oakdale businesses receiving city assistance is required to give priority to Oakdale residents when hiring. OSM and HyVee have used this program.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Koep mentioned the upcoming OACC meeting at Oak Marsh on February 7.

Commissioner Harriman reported that she works for AFSME Labor Union and they are preparing for a Day at the Capital, Tuesday, March 26.

Commissioner Orsello mentioned he recently interviewed two of the three new councilmembers, Jake Ingebrigtsen and Colleen Swedberg, and outgoing councilmember, Lori Pulkrabek. Upcoming guest is Imran Ali, Washington County Prosecutor.

Commissioner Burns has a concern regarding low business and cost at the new Dart Escape. Also sponsoring an afterhours OACC event at Fractional Toys.

Commissioner Whillock reported on the food service at Oak Marsh. Commissioner Koep suggested offering coupons or samples at OACC meetings.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 5:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ORSELLO AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OECHSNER TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019 AT 6:20PM.

ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Buhl, Customer Service Specialist