

**REGULAR MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY OF OAKDALE
MAY 1, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Oakdale was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at the Oakdale City Hall, Oakdale, Minnesota. Chair Whillock called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Steve Whillock

Commissioners: Stacie Penn
Frank Orsello
Bill Burns
Holly Koep
Dave Halper
Gary Livingston
Robert Stiglich
Jodi Christensen

Absent: Christine Harriman
Danny Lee
Scott Oechsner

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

Quorum Present: YES NO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BURNS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PENN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019.

5 AYES

4 ABSTAIN

OLD BUSINESS

Business Retention & Expansion Update

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels provided an update and overview of BR&E program that City Council recently reviewed at a workshop.

Commissioner Halper asked if a standard questionnaire is used for business visits? Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied a fairly standard agenda is followed but flexibility is needed depending on what topic the business wants to discuss. A standard survey document is given to the business after the visit.

Commissioner Burns expressed his interest and asked if other councilmembers are interested in visits. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels stated attendance depends on their availability. Usually the Mayor or other City Council member, staff and EDC Chair attend. EDC Chair may designate alternate if needed. Staff may complete visit alone if other members are unable to attend. Fall and winter work better for staff due to the amount of follow up needed after visits.

Commissioner Whillock suggested if an EDC member suggested the visit, or would be beneficial to the visit, they could be asked to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

GOLD LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels provided a presentation of the final plan including updates, characteristics, design, planning, station access and parking for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit.

Commissioner Burns asked if additional parking will be available at Helmo Station? Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied that a park and ride is planned at that site. There will also be a larger park and ride at the Woodbury theatre station.

Commissioner Whillock asked if the White Bear Avenue station is considered the 3M station? Ms. Graffunder-Bartels stated the Maplewood station is serving primarily 3M employees. The Gold Line will run all the way downtown to Union Depot.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels reported on the following development updates:

- a. Randy's Pizza. They are staying in Oakdale and have gone gluten-free.
- b. Teriyaki Madness. New casual, fast food restaurant in Oakdale Village.
- c. Taco Bell. Plans to build in parking lot of Bergen Plaza.
- d. 3M Development. Staff working with developer, formal submittal of plan expected this year.
- e. Peaceful Lodge. Proposed plan to build 33 additional units for assisted living. Plan is in review.
- f. Motion Tech Automation. Interim use permit was approved to build a 600 SF temporary building to test new insulation installation equipment.

Commissioner Whillock asked if there is any interest in the property across from the 4Front Campus. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied that there is nothing yet, possibly after homes are built.

Commissioner Orsello asked for an update on the strip mall redevelopment on Geneva Avenue. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels noted that plans have stalled due to an existing lease agreement.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Burns reported that 1000 people attended the Blue Ribbon Bait Shop open house celebrating their new parking lot.

Commissioner Stiglich mentioned a house in his neighborhood recently had a fire and is now vacant. The house has yellow tape around it, abandoned cars in front and has not been kept up. He is concerned about the effect on the neighborhood and is hoping the city can help. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels referred him to Oakdale Building Department.

Commissioner Orsello stated that another house in Oakdale had burned a few years ago and it is still unoccupied. Also reported that Superintendent Christine Osorio will speak at the Chamber meeting on the upcoming bond issue and scholarships.

Commissioner Koep reported that the Annual Spring Fling was a success. She mentioned her term is ending in June but would be willing to stay on the EDC until her OACC Presidency ends next year.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels informed the Commission that terms for Holly Koep, Danny Lee, Stacie Penn, and Steve Whillock expire soon. Stacie Penn and Steve Whillock will seek reappointment but Danny Lee will not. Because Holly Koep does not live in Oakdale and Apollo Heating is no longer in Oakdale, she may choose to continue as an ex officio, non-voting member representing the Chamber. EDC bylaws state that City Council may appoint the OACC President at any time.

Commissioner Halper noticed low business at Dart Escape and visited Sharel's Café for the first time and loved it. Mentioned that Caribou on 36 is the biggest seller for their district!

Commissioner Penn mentioned the Carol Matheys Spring Soiree, which raises money for daycare scholarships and emergency needs.

Commissioner Whillock noted the Chamber Golf Tournament, June 24. Proceeds go to Holiday Helping Hands, CCEFS and scholarships.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ORSELLO AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 1, 2019 AT 6:23 PM.

ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Buhl, Customer Service Specialist