

**MINUTES
CITY OF WOODSTOCK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 8:00AM on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, by Chairperson Rick Francois in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall, 121 West Calhoun, Woodstock, Illinois. A roll call was taken by Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Smiley.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlene Lynes, Ryan O'Connor, Henry Patel, and Rick Francois.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Hallenstein

STAFF PRESENT: Cort Carlson, Director of Community and Economic Development and Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Smiley.

C. Carlson introduced new Commission member Ryan O'Connor who shared some information about himself with the members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by A. Lynes, second by H. Patel to approve the minutes of the following meetings as presented:

November 12, 2013

December 10, 2013

January 14, 2014

Ayes: Lynes, Patel, O'Connor, and Chairman Francois. Nays: none. Absentees: Hallenstein. Abstentions: none. Motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

R. Francois noted that the survey project seems to have stalled and reminded the Commission members that they were to provide feedback to C. Carlson so that he could prepare a summary to go to City Council. Mr. Carlson reported that he had received feedback from some members but all and would like to get everyone's input before he completes the summary. He stated that he would again send everyone the questions and responses in Excel format again for their review. R. Francois asked that everyone provide this information to Mr. Carlson within the next two week so that the summary can be completed by the next meeting.

C. Carlson reported that the City is in Phase II of the hiring of an Economic Development Coordinator, noting the deadline for application is March 18th. He further noted that the City has already received applications from several highly qualified individuals.

Mr. Carlson then noted that Yofresh yogurt shop will open on the Square sometime in April. He stated that this is a locally-owned franchise yogurt shop and is the first national brand to open on the Square.

C. Carlson stated that there is now only one remaining empty storefront location on the Square, 107 Van Buren. He reported that he has had many calls regarding this space.

He then reported that he will be attending ICSC Midwest Idea Exchange, an organization for retail attraction. He stated that this is the largest of this type of event the City has attended and should be very well-attended. He hopes to meet with retail representatives and developers and will put Woodstock on the radar for retail development. He also reported that he will attend the ICSC International Retail Conference in Las Vegas in May. He noted that this is “the place to go” if you are interested in retail development.

He detailed for the Commission various other Economic Development groups with which he has met and initiatives in which he is involved-local, regional, national, and international.

C. Carlson updated the Commission on the following:

There have been a few inquiries on the Precision Quincy and Silgan sites which seems to indicate an uptake in interest in industrial facilities.

Route 47 Project – the City has been aggressive in facilitating Rt. 47 improvements, including securing the services of a lobbyist who will help push these project forward in Springfield. He also informed the Commission that the City Manager and Mayor traveled to Springfield last week to meet with state legislators and IDOT to move these projects forward.

Route 14 Project – While in Springfield, City Manager Stelford and Mayor Sager also discussed this project with the legislators and IDOT.

Harley-Davidson Relocation – C. Carlson reported that the Harley Davidson business is scheduled to move to the former K-Mart location in the Spring of 2015, with the build-out taking place in 2014. He noted that the first incentive payment will be in the spring of 2014 for the past year of sale. He further stated that hopefully during the build-out phase, the City can work with the property owner to market the business’s current site.

Angelo’s – Noting that the business has been sold and will now be known as Papa G’s, C. Carlson stated that renovations are planned but will be performed later in the day to avoid closure.

Classic Cinemas – C. Carlson reported that the movie theatre project is moving along and that it is hoped to have the main theatre completed very soon. In response to a question from R. Francois, C. Carlson stated that the theatre management is very happy with the renovation and expansion and with ticket sales and attendance.

St. Pat’s Celebration – C. Carlson informed the Commission that this Saturday the first Benton St. St. Patrick’s Day Celebration will take place, sponsored by some of the bars and restaurants on that street.

Benton/Judd Corner – C. Carlson noted that a local investor is interested in the building at the corner of N. Benton and Judd. The investor hopes to purchase the building and do a complete renovation which would be very positive for the city and the Square.

Richards Supply Building – C. Carlson reported that there has been some interest in the former Richards Supply Building from people hoping to turn it into a winery.

KFC Building – C. Carlson reported that the KFC building has been sold to a local investor who is hoping to find a restaurant investor for the location.

Ryland Homes – C. Carlson reported on the progress of the build-out of the Sonatas by Ryland Homes, noting the economic development follows roof-tops.

Apple Creek Subdivision – C. Carlson noted that a private investor has purchased the remaining lots but that he is not a developer and the project is currently stagnant.

Old Courthouse – C. Carlson stated that the RFP responses are due by May 1.

Collateral Materials – In response to a question from R. Francois, C. Carlson briefly described the City's possible branding/marketing project which would affect the materials.

ADJOURN

Motion by A. Lynes, second by H. Patel, to adjourn to the next regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission scheduled for 8:00AM on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.
Ayes: Lynes, O'Connor, Patel, and Chairman Francois. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: Hallenstein. Meeting adjourned at 9:03AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley
Chief Deputy Clerk