



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lane at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ron Lane, Brandon Smith, Russell Pierce, Dennis Hoffman and Dee Dee Jackson
Commissioners Absent: None
Councilmembers: Jeffrey Tolley
Staff: Pete Carr, Jennifer Schmitke

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Economic Development Commission Minutes from January 9, 2024 and January 30, 2024.

ACTION: Commissioner Hoffman moved, seconded by Chairperson Lane to approve consent calendar as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote, 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION

A. Follow-up Discussion: Drone Show and other Event Ideas

City Manager Pete Carr shared that at the March 5th City Council meeting he presented a staff report describing the pros and cons as well as estimated costs of drone shows and fireworks, prompted by a request from the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and a City Councilmember. The City Council discussed the matter and expressed interest in having one of the shows, but they preferred it to be community-led rather than organized by the City directly. Two City Council members volunteered to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and interested members from the EDC.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the community group tasked with planning the event. Mr. Carr said he would provide guidance on this.

B. Follow-up Discussion: I-5 Economic Development Feasibility Study

The City Manager reported a delay in the follow-up on the I-5 Feasibility study due to revisions that needed to be made. A follow-up will be provided at an upcoming EDC meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Vacant Building and Vacant Lot Inventory

Mr. Carr and the Commission examined a chart detailing vacant buildings and lots, and discussed building/lot history, code enforcement issues, and potential future business prospects.

Mr. Carr mentioned Corning's vacant building monitoring fee as reference.

Commissioners deliberated on the challenges of implementing a code similar to Corning's vacant building monitoring fee, expressing concerns about its feasibility and potential impact. They also explored alternative approaches, discussing the possibility of offering more assistance or incentives to businesses to maintain buildings or attract new occupants.

Commissioner Jackson proposed exploring the establishment of a historic district, where buildings over a certain age could potentially receive funding for their historical significance.

Commissioner Pierce inquired about the impact of implementing the fee for vacant lots/buildings in Corning. Mr. Carr said there wasn't yet useful information available on the program's performance. Mr. Pierce asked about the potential for fee reductions.

Commissioner Smith suggested sending letters to property owners to inform them about the assistance available from the city for their properties.

Mr. Carr suggested bringing back information on how to create a district. Mr. Carr shared he would bring a 1st draft of a letter that would go out to building/lot owners and an outline of suggested fees for a building monitoring program and possible fee reductions to review.

Commissioner Pierce moved, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman to add City Visioning Process as item 7.B. and Business Update as Item 7.C. to the agenda. Motion carried by a voice vote, 5-0.

B. City Visioning Process

Mr. Carr provided an overview of the visioning plan, which includes the City's 25-year General Plan and a five-year plan initiated in 2013. Commissioners expressed interest in participating in the Council study session.

C. Business Updates

Mr. Carr gave an update on Subway reopening this month. He mentioned other properties are being actively explored by investors.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chairperson Lane: Spoke about a recent vacation to Florida. Shared there is a new "Cars and Coffee" which will be located at Old Bags Bakery on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8 am.
- Commissioner Smith: Spoke about a new member of the Chamber that came to speak at their meeting.
- Commissioner Pierce: Stated there are over 400 kids signed up for baseball, softball or t-ball this year and shared his appreciation for all the community outreach that Little League received for their field clean-up days.
- Commissioner Jackson: Spoke about a few workshops that Glenn Grows is putting on. Shared that the farmers market will start doing 4 weeks in May and 4 weeks in September with the possibility of extensions if needed.

- Commissioner Hoffman: Shared an interest in meeting more than once every other month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Commissioners deliberated on the advantages of holding meetings monthly instead of every other month.
Commissioner Hoffman proposed, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to hold monthly meetings until the Commission decides to revert to bi-monthly meetings. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote of 5-0. The next Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024.
- Chairperson Lane inquired about a follow-up meeting from the last joint session involving City Council, Planning Commission, and Economic Development Commission. Mr. Carr informed that there were no plans for a follow-up meeting.
- Commissioner Jackson suggested creating a video showcasing the highlighted areas of what the town has to offer. Mr. Carr mentioned that a video was produced a few years ago and he would check if it's still available on the website.

ADJOURN – 7:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Schmitke, Commission Secretary

Ron Lane, Chairperson