



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lane at 6:00 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – led by Chairperson Lane.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ron Lane, David Allee, Russell Pierce, Dennis Hoffman, and Dee Dee Jackson

Absent: None

Councilmembers: Mathew Romano

Staff: Rebecca Pendergrass

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of the May 9, 2023, minutes

B. Resignation request from Commissioner David Allee

Moved and approved by unanimous vote.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION**

#### **A. Report of Chamber Request for City Support**

Director of Administrative Services/Assistant City Manager (ACM) Rebecca Pendergrass informed the Commission of the Chamber Board's recent presentation to City Council. The board members explained to the Council that were currently analyzing the needs, functions, and goals of the Chamber. Once the board has worked through their plan, they will then approach Council with an update and a possible request for support.

#### **Update: Queen Bee Bucks Program Update and Alternatives**

ACM Pendergrass shared that Queen Bee Buck sales were down significantly and that redemptions were occurring only a couple of times a week. The Commission was asked if they would prefer to see another round of Queen Bee Bucks or if they wanted staff to seek alternative options for a "shop local" program.

After discussion, the Commission suggested another round of Queen Bee Bucks be considered as the program has already been established and that switching to an alternative now might confuse residents and customers alike.

**B. Chamber and Glenn Grows Update**

Commissioner Jackson, who also sits as the Chamber Board President, informed the Commission that she had been in contact with the County regarding the Glenn Grows Building. The Chamber is seeking a new office space location and believes that there is great opportunity in relocating to the County's Glenn Grows location to co-locate with the "Business Incubator" to allow for both entities to function with minimal staff required.

**C. Possible uses for HDC Lot**

ACM Pendergrass reported on the City Council's suggestions for the current empty lot that was supposed to be used for the new Honeybee Discover Center. There is a current grant application for a pollinator park at that location, pending funding notice Council opted to explore other alternatives to the City owned property.

Included in the suggestions were office buildings that could be used for City Hall and other agency services, a city park with an educational kiosk, outdoor plaza, or pollinator garden. The Commission reviewed the different options but felt that further discussion would be much more productive once the outcome of the requested grant funding was known.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Local Business and Development Updates**

ACM Pendergrass stated that City Manager Pete Carr and herself were going to attend the upcoming Northern California Hotel Expo. City Manager Carr had attended the event in the past and had some success in networking. The goal of attending the expo is to attract hotel developers to Orland.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

- The commissioners thanked Commissioner Allee for his countless years of service as an Economic Development Commissioner and as a county employee and wished him a happy retirement.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Streetscapes Update
- HDC Lot Update

**ADJOURN – 6:42 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Pendergrass, Staff Support

Ron Lane, Chairperson