



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

This meeting was conducted in person and remotely using teleconferencing technology provided by Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Bobbi Harrison called the meeting to order 8:00am

Commissioners: Chair Bobbi Harrison, Rob McDonald, Joelle Gibson, Nichole Pas and Larry Mana’o.

Councilmember Rob Wotton and Kelly Coughlin, Chamber of Commerce, were also present was also present.

Commissioners Ryan Seal and Shalabh Chandra were absent.

City Staff: Emily Arteche, Community Development Director; Mike Chambless; City Administrator; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison; Ashley Wragge, Planning Technician; Andrew Jongekryg, IT Systems Support.

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was approved without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2023 minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION

- Community Liaison Update: The holiday season is here- lighting is going well and it is expected to be completely done by Thanksgiving. The Arts Commission is bringing Larry the Elk to storefronts. The tree lighting event is on December 2nd from 4-6pm, Santa is on December 9th. Downtown merchants are setting up weekend events throughout December.
- Community Development Report: Economic Development Element is at Community Development Committee. Staff had a successful public outreach event for the Comprehensive Plan Open House. Staff continues to work on development projects.
- Chamber Update: Businesses are seeing a decline in sales this year. Shop the Valley is a promotional giveaway for valley businesses, spend money at local business to enter. The wedding guide is coming out soon, more weddings have been coming to the city. SnoKing will be having all their tournaments in the city this year and free skate day is the last day of school before break. Issues with theft locally, make sure businesses call when theft occurs so it is documented. Twin Peaks Day will be February 23-25.
- Mayor’s Report: Police Chief Lynch has been appointed and will be sworn in soon. Fire and Finance interviews will be soon. Parks and Public Works and Legal will begin recruitment in the beginning of the year. Business License and BNO tax discussion in the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Chair: Nomination of Bobbi Harrison to serve as chair and seconded by Rob McDonald. Elections were postponed until the next meeting to discuss by-laws and chair duties.
- Council Priority Tracker: Tourism added to the tracker and EDC will take first steps. Discussion ensued about potential projects. EDC is looking for more specific direction from the Community Development Committee.

- Business Visitation Update: Create a recap of conversations and how to extract information from conversations while protecting anonymity.
- Work Program: Went over potential topics for next year; potentially update with Downtown Retail Expansion.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 am