

First Reading: 6-09-25
Bill No.: 25-34

Second Reading: 6-23-25
Ordinance No.: 250609

AN ORDINANCE RE-ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE FOR THE CITY OF WILLARD; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PROCEED WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NINE-MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TO SERVE AS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, the City of Willard (“the City”) recognizes that a strong and vibrant local economy is crucial to the well-being and prosperity of its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the existence of opportunities to foster growth and development through focused strategies and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, collaboration by a formal task force is necessary to address these challenges and capitalize on these opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Creation of Task Force

There is hereby created an Economic Development Task Force to guide and assist with the development, promotion, and implementation of strategies in order to identify and encourage economic development within the City.

Section 2. Appointment of Board

The Mayor shall, with the approval of a majority of all members of the Board of Aldermen, appoint an Economic Development Task Force of nine (9) members. One (1) member shall be a member of the Board of Aldermen; the President of the Chamber of Commerce shall be one (1) member; the city administrator shall be one (1) member and two (2) members shall be members of the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining members will consist of two (2) residents of the City of Willard, and two (2) members shall be an owner, manager, or employee of a Willard business or owner of real property located in the City.

Section 3. Duration and Renewal

The Economic Development Task Force shall serve for a renewable two-year term. The Task Force shall submit an annual report to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen summarizing its activities and recommendations. The Board may vote to renew, revise, or conclude the Task Force based on this report.

Section 4. Filling Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs on the Economic Development Task Force by removal, resignation, or otherwise, said vacancy shall be reported to the Board of Aldermen and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired term of said member.

Section 5. Compensation

No Economic Development Task Force member shall receive any compensation for service on the Task Force.

Section 6. Meeting Schedule and Quorum

The Economic Development Task Force shall meet no less than quarterly. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair. The Task Force shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its members. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members.

Section 7. Staff Support

The City Administrator shall assign one or more staff members to serve as liaisons to the Task Force. Staff liaisons shall assist in coordinating agendas, preparing materials, facilitating communication with City departments, and maintaining records.

Section 8. Duties and Responsibilities

The Economic Development Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) With the City Comprehensive Plan as the foundation for the community vision, identify elements of the land development regulations that might be amended to encourage potential future development activities.
- (b) Assist in developing an overall economic development strategy and vision for the community.
- (c) Explore funding options available at the federal and state level that may facilitate and encourage economic development and make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen on pursuing those funding sources.
- (d) Identify steps that all stakeholders can take to foster a positive business environment, encourage economic development, and create new jobs in the City of Willard.
- (e) Recommend prioritized action items to the Board of Aldermen for possible inclusion in the City's budget, planning, or capital programs.
- (f) Organize at least one annual stakeholder roundtable, developer workshop, or industry engagement event.

- (g) Evaluate the effectiveness of current economic development incentives and policies and recommend changes/additions to enhance competitiveness and transparency.

Section 9. Working Groups

The Task Force may establish ad hoc working groups composed of Task Force members, staff, and relevant stakeholders to explore specific issues, projects, or areas of interest. These groups shall report back to the full Task Force with findings and recommendations.

Section 10. Advisory Capacity

The Economic Development Task Force is an advisory board, and its decisions are purely recommendations to be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen for consideration.

Section 11. Removal of Members

The Mayor may, with the consent of a majority of all the members of the Board of Aldermen, remove any Economic Development Task Force member. Any member may also be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Board of Aldermen, independently of the Mayor's approval or recommendation.

Section 12. Reports

The Task Force shall submit an annual report summarizing activities, findings, and recommendations.

A final report may be submitted at the conclusion of the Task Force's operations if it is not renewed.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage by the Board of Aldermen and approval by the Mayor.

Read two times and passed at a meeting of the Board of Alders of the City of Willard, Missouri, on the **23rd day of June, 2025.**

Approved By: _____

Troy Smith, Mayor

Attested By: _____

Rebecca Hansen, City Clerk

Approved as to Form: _____

Nate Dally, City Attorney