



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting

8 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Committee members present: Pat Cedeno, Kyle Fleming, Jim Hoskins, Brian Pinamonti, Jeff Poe and Mark Werner

Others present: Blake Benson, Daron Hall and Henry Menghini

Additions to the agenda: None.

Consent calendar: Chairman Mark Werner began by asking for discussion regarding the minutes from the April 1, 2015 meeting. There was no discussion.

MOTION: Werner asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was made and seconded. All carried, motion approved.

New business:

Community Improvement District (CID) Policy

The EDAC spent considerable time discussing a proposed policy regarding Community Improvement Districts (CIDs), a popular development tool in other parts of the state. A developer or property owner can request to have their property declared a CID, which would allow them to charge an additional sales tax on top of those sales taxes levied by the city, county and state. The additional tax would then be returned to the developer/property owner for new development or refurbishment of older buildings within the CID. The policy, drafted by City Attorney Menghini, provides a detailed list of expenditures that would and would not be applicable as a CID expense. City Manager Hall indicated that the owners of the Town Center development and Meadowbrook Mall had both expressed interest in a CID, but had yet to make application. The purpose of this discussion was to have a policy in place should those entities formally apply for a CID. EDAC members expressed the need for continued development, and the substantial costs in doing so, but also that the city needed to be careful not to place itself at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring communities. Hall

indicated that, should a CID be approved, it was imperative to keep the total sales tax rate under 10%. Ultimately, the EDAC agreed that a CID would be appropriate under the guidelines included in the proposed policy.

MOTION: A motion was made to recommend the city commission adopt the Community Improvement District policy as presented. Motion seconded and carried.

Project updates

Blake Benson brought EDAC members up to speed on the KDOT intermodal project. Benson has responded to one questionnaire and anticipates a second questionnaire within the next week. Pittsburg now has four sites being considered.

Benson relayed that LEGO Education had announced that it will relocate its Pittsburg office to Boston by June 2016. Benson plans to meet with LEGO officials about anything the city can do to help those affected employees.

Benson also relayed that a well-known, sit-down restaurant was interested in locating in Pittsburg. Benson connected them with Meadowbrook Mall officials, but after those negotiations fell through, Benson showed them property in north Pittsburg. They are working with a land owner in that area and expect to make a decision by mid-summer.

EDAC appointment

Benson presented the name of Brian Pinamonti, owner of Pinamonti Physical Therapy, to fill the unexpired EDAC term formerly held by Dr. Brad Hodson, who recently took employment in Joplin.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the city commission that Brian Pinamonti be appointed to fill the unexpired EDAC term of Dr. Brad Hodson. All carried, motion approved.

Project updates

In the interest of time, Benson will provide a project update at the May 6, 2015, meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Benson