



City of Pekin

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 3, 2019

12:00 p.m. Pekin City Hall

Members Present: Buster Hanley, John Campbell, Danielle Owens, Bill Fleming, Gregg Ratliff, Drew Leman, Andy Sparks, Mack Cakora, Pat Taphorn

Others Attendees: Mayor Luft, City Manager Rothert, Matt Fick, Tory Dahlhoff, Trent Lawrence

1.0 Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

2.0 Andy Sparks moved and Bill Fleming seconded to approve minutes of the July 2019 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

3.0 New Business: Tory Dahlhoff from the Peoria Area Economic Development Council (EDC) gave an overview on the EDC's efforts to help promote hemp production and manufacturing in the Central Illinois area. He explained that due to our central location in the U.S. there are hemp processing companies from Canada that are looking to site a plant somewhere in the state. He has met with a few of them and showed them the region and there is some interest. He further explained the various uses of the hemp plant and how it can be processed into multiple materials that can be used for building materials, clothing and even for the formation of items that would typically be made from plastic. Mr. Trent Lawrence, who owns an organic farm south of Delavan and also an IT business in Pekin, addressed the group and gave a summary of the recreational cannabis laws, the differences between hemp and cannabis, the uses of both, and what is required to produce, harvest and process both. He also explained what a recreational cannabis dispensary was as opposed to a medical cannabis dispensary and some of the regulations that will be applied to the licensing and operating of a recreational dispensary. There were several questions regarding the information presented and members expressed their opinion on the issue but agreed that all of the information was helpful and that further education and presentations to community organizations would be necessary before the City Council could make an informed decision as to whether or not a recreational cannabis dispensary should be allowed in Pekin.

4.0 Due to the length of the presentations, Economic Development Manager Fick did not give any updates.

5.0 Round Table Updates: Bill Fleming presented a selected local economic indicators report for the first 7 months of 2019.

6.0 Questions from the public regarding the presentation were received.

7.0 Meeting adjourned at 1:25