



City of Pekin

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 7, 2022

12:00 p.m. Pekin City Hall

Members Present: Mack Cakora, Catie Campbell, John Campbell, Buster Hanley, Drew Leman, Danielle Owens, Amy McCoy, Early Riley, Dennis Short, Jack Steger, Patrick Taphorn

Others Attendees: Councilmember John Abel, David Bess, Councilmember Becky Cloyd, Matt Fick, Mayor Mark Luft, Councilmember Dave Nutter, Mark Rothert

1.0 Meeting called to order by Mack Cakora at 12:03 PM.

2.0 Motion to approve the January minutes, motion carried.

3.0 New Business: Mayor Mark Luft introduced Bo Cheeseman who provided a detailed presentation regarding the need for funding to establish a USPHL junior hockey program at the existing Veterans Memorial Arena. To qualify for hosting such a program, extensive renovations are required to the arena to meet minimum standards. To rebuild the facility, the presenter indicated that the total funding needed to complete the project would be \$2.5 million. Anticipated funding sources for the project was indicated to include a variety of sources including multiple small grants and private donations. Presently, it was indicated that the ownership group had contributed \$150,000 to the project. Discussion was held regarding the structure of the ownership group, other USPHL members, importance of junior hockey to the Pekin community and background information regarding the USPHL.

Drew Leman presented his proposal for an apartment complex located on Broadway Road. The presenter explained that the complex would include two, two-story buildings with 8 apartments in each building. The presenter noted that construction costs are approximately \$3 million with bids still outstanding and is requesting that the City provide assistance with waiving permit fees and potentially property tax offsets through the TIF program. The presenter stated that construction would begin in April with hopes to complete construction by the end of the year. Discussion was held regarding need for high-end apartment rentals in the community, structure of rental agreements for tenants, how storm water runoff would be handled and any potential impacts on surrounding properties. Amy McCoy motioned for a vote of support for the project, seconded by Danielle Owens, motion passed unanimously with Drew Leman abstaining. City Manager Mark Rothert noted that inducement resolution will return for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

4.0 Amy McCoy discussed the concept of a Pekin business ambassador program to promote new business and retain current businesses in the community. She explained that the program would engage business owners with access to technical expertise and materials to assist them in their business. Additionally, Amy also discussed the new "What's the Story Pekin" podcast and the new City of Pekin newsletter.

5.0 Round Table Updates were provided. Round Table Updates included a discussion on the newly proposed TIF districts, upcoming State of the District event for the Pekin School District, Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Week promotions and an update on lofts at 200 Court.

6.0 Jack Steger and Councilman Abel voiced support for Drew Leman's project. Councilman Nutter indicated support for Pekin hockey and voiced appreciation for Bo Cheeseman's presentation.

7.0 Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM.