**Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board**

*The mission of the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board is to improve the quality of life and create a shared prosperity in our community by retaining, sustaining, and enhancing existing businesses and community organizations, attracting and developing new businesses, and improving and upgrading infrastructure.*

**Date: October,6th 2021**

**Meeting Location: 124 South Washington Street, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548**

**Meeting type: Business meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1) Call to order**

Jim Birge called to order the regular meeting of the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board at 6:00 P.M.

**2)** Sam Brown conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Jim Birge, Erin Wyss, Andy Meister, Tracy Pulliam, Corey Leonard and Doug Johnson

**3) Introduction of guests**

Rick Volle

Tom Martin

Joey Greenwood

Christina Snellen

Randy Hagenbuch

Phyllis Beccue

**4) Approval of September 2nd, Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Minutes from the September 2nd, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. **Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Andy Meister. Second by Erin Wyss. Motion passed.**

**5) Treasurer’s Report**

presented by Sam Brown, Need to contact Mayor Matt Bobell about business district fund repaying back the community fund for DPCM and Farmers Restaurants parking lot work. **Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Corey Leonard. Second by Doug Johnson. Motion passed.**

**Old Business**

**6) Desired Outcomes**

Project Updates

Improve and upgrade infrastructure

-Town Square revitalization - Tom Martin reported that they are still trying to get a reply for the 1 million dollar grant and are asking Tim Butler for help.The more the discussion was had Tom and Rick felt like they were settling only having a little bit done and have decided to wait until it all can be done. They are updating where the shrubs were on the side of the bank and the EDPB has received a bill that was one years worth of work from Dave in the amount of 11,718. Rick Volle will pay half of that so our half will be $5,859.00 This needs to be paid promptly and front the business district funds. **Andy makes the motion to approve to pay half of the bill in the amount of $5,859.00. Seconded by Erin. Roll Call- Jim -Yes, Corey-yes, Erin-yes, Doug-yes, Andy- yes, Tracy-yes. All in favor, motion passes.**

Retain, sustain, and enhance our existing businesses and community organizations

Attract and develop new businesses

Grants - Phyllis Beccue submitted a Business grant application for the Abraham Lincoln statue. Discussion was held about the grant information provided seeking 20,000.00 over the span of three years.Discussion about this grant coming from the community funds account. There is a performance bond to make sure the project will be finished. This statue will attract more people to the courthouse and the square. The first payment is now, the second payment is April 2022, and final 20,000. in March 2023 as the project will be finished.

**Motion by Andy to approve$20,000.00over 3 instalments. Seconded by Erin Wyss. Roll Call- Jim-yes, Corey- Present, Erin-yes,Doug-yes, Andy-yes, Tracey-yes. Majority vote motion passes.**

Attract and develop new businesses

-Market on the Hill - Business Grant application, asking for $5,000.00 for marketing. Attached to the grant application was a budget proposal and included was this would pay for someone to do the marketing.

**Corey makes a motion to pass. Seconced by Tracy. Roll Call- Jim-yes, Corey- yes, Erin-yes, Doug-yes,Andy -yes,Tracy-yea, motion passes in favor of $5,000.00 from the business district fund for marketing upon approval from city council.**

-Farm Fed Co-op - Tom Martin stated they have hired a manger Cindy Wilson. They have 95% of pledges. They are meeting with the bank for funding and loans. They have applied for a $300,000.00 grant through the USDA. They are moving right along and working on electing a new board.

**-Before and after school program** - Business Grant application was submitted and ready for review. The program as of this date has only one for sure child ready for care. The Y feels hesitant to open with only one family. The costs to pay employees and other fees would not be covered by one child in the program. Staffing alone is $600.00 a week. They are planning on the hours to be 6 A.M.- 8 A.M. and 3 P.M.- 6 P.M. The program can one operate at a loss. The proposed options are to continue to market and open 1st of the year or to continue marketing and start now with financial help from the EDPB. The EDPB would give money to start and offset loss weekly. 5,000.00 being asked of the EDPB would also cover the start-up costs. Jim asks how many kids are needed to be self-sufficient and Joey says 10 kids. Corey- how long is the process to get kids started in the program. Christina- The following Monday. Jim- how many staff members are needed? Joey- 10 kids with 2 people, 30 kids with 3 people. Erin- Has any other small communities had this same issue, are they successful now? Joey- yes, Riverton, Chatham and Sherman. They are in need of staff and are still looking to hire. The kids will not walk to and from the program and school they will always be escorted. Christmas break kids can be enrolled during just the break time. Megan and Ashley to join the next meeting.

**AndyMeister makes a motion to approve $5,000.00 up to $600.00 a week until the January 7th, 2022 meeting and reassess. Seconded by Erin Wyss. Roll call- Jim-yes, Corey-yes, Erin-yes, Doug- yes, Andy- yes, Tracy- yes. All approved, motion passes.**

**New Business-**

-Open board positions - Two open board positions were filled by Corey Leonard and Tracy Pulliam. Sam will find a new member's packet for them.

-Administrative Position - Jim made a committee of Andy and Corey to finalize what job suits need odne etc. Tom says this position needs to be full time because his plate is too full. EDPB moving forward and making moves will require a full time administration.

-City Ordinance- The proposed cty ordinance was voted on and was not approved. It appears that the way the EDPB has been conducting is a way that works for city council as well. EDPB should show some transparency to council members in the future, such as: meeting minutes and treasure report. The EDPB has been operating in compliance with current city ordinance. The EDPB is still entertaining the thought of a 501c3 only to be able to receive more funding for our community.

Jim makes motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Erin Wyss.

**8) No Executive Session**

**9) Next Meeting November 11th at 6:00 P.M**