Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2021

Roll call

Present: Jim Birge, Hillary Cherry, Andy Meister, Doug Johnson, Erin Wyss

Guests: Matt Bobell, City of Mt. Pulaski Mayor; Randy Hagenbuch, City of Mt. Pulaski Alderman; Tom Martin; Dee Howard

Meeting Minutes from the August 4, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Andy Meister. Second by Doug Johnson. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jim Birge. The amount of $8,161.58 for July grants was noted as a correction to the financials. Motion to approve the treasurer's report with the noted correction to the financials was made by Andy Meister. Second by Doug Johnson. Motion passed.

Old business

Grants - Phyllis Beccue submitted a grant application for the Abraham Lincoln statue. Discussion was held about the grant information provided. Motion to table the grant review until Phyllis can be present at a meeting to provide a formal presentation made by Hillary Cherry. Second by Doug Johnson. Motion passed.

Town Square revitalization - Tom Martin reported that discussions on the project are continuing. Holding off for a few years due to funding concerns. The Rebuild Illinois Grant, which the EDPB applied for, will be awarded in the upcoming month or so. A new plan for Cooke Street only has been presented. Tom will send this to the EDPB via email. Plan includes a $234,000 project with approximately $50,000 to be paid by Rick Volle for the bank property. The plan will be presented and reviewed by the City Council at an upcoming meeting. No formal discussion was made on this project at this time.

Farm Fed Co-op - Tom Martin stated that they raised $126,000 from people in over 10 states. They are still in need of smaller share purchases in the amounts of $500 and $100.

True Value Shopping Center - Doug Johnson reported an open house and ribbon cutting will be held on September 18 at noon.

Update on the wind farm, Enel - City of Mt. Pulaski attorney and the Enel attorney are involved in discussions about the ordinance. Tom Martin and Jim Birge had a meeting to discuss this via phone. This is now in Enel's court to decide how to proceed given the ordinance.

Before and after school program - Tom Martin provided an update on this project. The Methodist Church has been approved as the location for the YMCA before and after school program. They are still looking for staff at this time. The church is requesting $10,000 for updates and repairs for this project. No action was taken on this item.

New business

Open board positions - Two open board positions remain. Mayor Bobell plans to appoint new members at the next City Council meeting on September 28.

Economic Impact Report - The report was presented to the board for review. It was noted that this was not the final copy. No action was taken on this item.

Market on the Hill - Update provided by Andy Meister stating that the Market was doing well. They are still hoping to increase the number of people shopping here and trying to increase marketing efforts.

Public comments: Dee Howard attended the meeting to update information on the building that Debra May owns and ask the EDPB for assistance. Debra May, Greg Maus, Rick Volle and Tom Martin have all met to discuss demolition of the building. The building inspector for the City of Mt. Pulaski has sent reports with Dee's letter and Debra's letter to the city to try to move the project forward. No action has been taken by the EDPB on this at this time.

Executive session

Motion to enter Executive session by Erin Wyss and second by Doug Johnson.

Motion to exit Executive session by Hillary Cherry and second by Erin Wyss.

(Submitted by Hillary Cherry)