**Minutes**

*The mission of the Mount 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: 9/6/2023**

**Time: 6:15 pm**

**Location: 124 S Washington St, Mt Pulaski IL 62548**

**Meeting Type: Business**

1. Call to Order: Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:16 on Wednesday September 6th.
2. Roll Call: Present were Andrew Meister, Tracy Pulliam, Erin Wyss, Benjamin Butler, and administrator Deanna Howard. Corey Leonard and Doug Johnson were absent.
3. Introduction of guests: Chase Aylesworth and Alec Murphy with Front Line Ag and Fall Festival Committee members arrived later.
4. Approval of Consent Agenda-payments and minutes: **Tracy motioned to approve August minutes, second by Ben. All present members voted aye. Tracy motioned to approve the payment to Marvel Law in the amount of $820, second by Erin. Roll call vote: Andrew-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Ben-aye. Doug and Corey were absent.** The payment to Bobbie Taylor was an approved grant reimbursement and did not need to be approved.
5. Treasurer report: Deanna presented the treasurer report.
6. Old Business
   1. Project Updates
      1. Farm Fed: No updates.
      2. Town Square Revitalization: Deanna reported her progress on the project. She has met with landscape architects Massie and Massie. In a separate meeting she met with Green and Associates (firm Lee Holmes works for) and Veenstra & Kimm, Inc (the civil engineers that worked on the project with MMLP).
      3. After School Program: no update
      4. Market on the Hill: Deanna presented the report from The Market on the Hill showing a net loss of $4854.21 for August. A check will be issued for the maximum approved amount of $3000.
      5. Frazier Park: The fence will be started this month. It is the understanding that the city will pay for the fence and EDPB will roll over the amount that was not spent in their fiscal year 22/23 into the fiscal year budget 23/24.
      6. 23/24 FY Budget:
         1. Erin presented the budget for fiscal year 23/24 and explained the documents and the board discussed some changes. This will remain on the agenda until it is approved.
         2. EDPB discussed the option of changing the process for community organizations that plan events for the community. These organizations include but are not limited to the Fall Festival committee, Community Association, Phoenix Fire Department and Christmas on Vinegar Hill. EDPB members are conflicted on how this should be handled. Erin noted that they know the processes and deadlines exist and it should be their responsibility to meet these deadlines. This will need to be added to the next agenda for a vote.
   2. Tabled Grant Reviews:
      1. Mt Pulaski Phoenix Fire Department-fireworks: no update
7. New Business
   1. Business Cards: This item was completed at the last meeting and should not have been on this agenda.
   2. Fall Festival: Daniel Meister and Hillary Cherry attended to give EDPB information regarding the activities the Fall Festival Committee has planned for the Mt Pulaski Fall Festival.   
      The Fall Festival Committee operates with a zero budget and relies on donations to create this event. They had submitted a grant application, but the event is occurring prior to the next grant review meeting. Andy explained that the Community Grant Program does not consider every situation, and this should be considered a donation instead of a grant. The EDPB discussed making this option available for all community groups providing events for the community. This will be discussed with the budget. Danielle is Andrew Meister’s wife, but he will not abstain from the vote for this donation because it is for the community and in no way benefits his family. **Ben motioned to approve a donation of $7500 to the Fall Festival Committee for the 2023 Mt Pulaski Fall Festival. The motion was seconded by Tracy. Roll call vote: Andrew-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Ben-aye. Corey and Doug were absent.**
   3. City Council Updates: Council has hired a firm for the Safe Route to Schools IDOT program.
8. Other Business/Non-Agenda items:
   1. Front Line Ag owners Chase Aylesworth and Alec Murphy submitted a grant application and attended the meeting to introduce themselves and give the EDPB information on the business they will be moving to 810 E McDonald St in Mt Pulaski. They talked about the community benefits the business would bring: Redeveloping farm ground and giving curb appeal to the entrance of Mt Pulaski, creating a few jobs and internships, as well has hosting agronomic educational events that will bring people to the community that would utilize services and products of local businesses.   
      The grant will be reviewed at the October 4th meeting and the board explained the process to Chase and Alec.
9. Executive Session: None
10. Next Meeting 10/4/2023 6:15 pm
11. Adjournment: **Tracy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm and the motion was seconded by Ben. All present members voted aye.**