MEETING MINUTES

# Mt. Pulaski Economic Advisory Board

## March 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm

## Meeting location: 106 South Washington Street, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548 Meeting type: Business meeting

PRESENT: Hillary Cherry, Tom Martin, Shaun Tyson, Tim Emrick, Renee Martin and City of Mt. Pulaski Representative, Matt Bobell

ABSENT: none

GUESTS: Allen Schaal, Greg Maus, Pam Erlenbush, Doug Johnson, Patty Johnson, Robbie Johnson

Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Roll call was taken with six (6) present. The following guests were present: Allen Schaal, Greg Maus, Pam Erlenbush, Doug Johnson, Patty Johnson, and Robbie Johnson

**Meeting minutes**

Reviewed meeting minutes from March 6, 2018, special meeting. Correction to the spelling of Tim Emrick’s name within the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes with noted correction by Shaun Tyson. Second by Tim Emrick. Motion passed.

Reviewed meeting minutes from March 12, 2018, business meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written by Shaun Tyson. Second by Tim Emrick. Motion passed.

Reviewed meeting minutes from March 24, 2018, Town square renovation/beautification committee meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written by Shaun Tyson. Second by Hillary Cherry. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s report**

Tim Emrick presented treasurers report. City of Mt. Pulaski General Ledger (#101125) Business District (#6804829) $46,197.07.Economic Advisory Board General Fund $1,000.00. Bills to be approved totaling $293.22. Motion to approve treasurer’s report as presented and pay the bills presented by Renee Martin and second by Shaun Tyson. Motion passed.

**Public comments**

Allen Schaal asked if he could have clarification on the grant process. He stated that the museum needs repairs, painting and windows. He wanted to know if this would be a project possibly covered by the grant program. Renee Martin reviewed the grant process.

Greg Maus said that he was attending on behalf of the Mt. Pulaski Christian Church. He asked how the church and the Economic Advisory Board could work together to make the empty lot (Lafayette and Jefferson) a part of the long term plan as well as the other church property (Washington and Jefferson). Tom Martin addressed how this would be an element of the Town square renovation/beautification committee’s plan, and asked that the church keep the EAB apprised of any plans that the church had for the lot.

Pam Erlenbush asked about the corner of Jefferson and Washington that was an Eagle Scout project. She said the Boy Scouts would be happy to put in rocks, decorative grass, etc., if the EAB would assist in funding any part of the project that could not be donated. Tom Martin said this would be an element of the Town square renovation/beautification committee’s plan and asked if the Boy Scouts could provide a quote for what would be needed to move forward in fixing up this corner of the square.

**New business**

Committee reports:

* Community grants:
  + Discussed removing the windfarm portion from the business district grant and creating two separate grants.
  + Renee discussed putting the final grant in a format in which would be easy to download. Hillary suggested we convert the file to a pdf.
  + Renee discussed means of distributing the grant application once it was completed. Copies (20) will be available in hard copy at the City Hall, the file will be available on the website for download, it will be linked to the Facebook page and a link will be sent to the Mt. Pulaski Times News.
* Website development:
  + Currently in discovery phase of the project and Hillary is working with Business Builders on content.
  + Hillary will ask how the invoice process works and when Business Builders expects payment. The City would like to pay at the completion of the project.
* Business development and retention:
  + Shaun Tyson discussed the grocery store situation stating that he has heard nothing further from Save A Lot. Dollar General is in a 6 year lease and does not have an interest in a food co-op. Doug Johnson, Patty Johnson, and Robbie Johnson discussed what their thoughts were on how Mt. Pulaski could bring in a successful grocery store. Doug Johnson discussed the business structure of Dollar General to provide background information as to how the store operates. The store is focused on investors. Shaun Tyson asked Doug to speak on what was feasible for a town of our size. Doug spoke on how a traditional grocery store as the Johnson’s owned and operated for a long time in Mt. Pulaski may not be as successful as a store that focused specifically on meat and produce. He stated that to bring in a chain, the store would need an independent owner. Robbie Johnson brought several items for us to research including a Kansas State University study and Lyons Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs. Doug stated that another option would be to offer something that no one else is offering and create a niche. He suggested partnering with Hyvee for delivery, looking at Eckert’s in Bellville on how they operate as well as a small grocer in Pickneyville.
  + Doug and Patty also stated that all buildings that they own are for sale (grocery store, antique mall, doctor’s office, and Dairy Bar.) The Dairy Bar and antique stores do have current leases with tenants.
  + Shaun stated that he would continue researching the grocery stores.
* Town square renovation and development:
  + Tom Martin discussed having another community meeting and inviting a planner or advisor to speak.
  + Tom is working on a list of buildings for sale.
  + Tom Martin brought up Market Days being on the 2nd Friday evening of each month from May through September on the square. The Economic Advisory Board will need to be present at these events but our level involvement will be discussed at a future meeting. Tom asked that the board consider donating $1,000 to the Market Days project to promote local businesses, encourage overall economic growth and encourage public involvement.
  + Shaun Tyson made a motion to donate $1,000 to the Market Days project. Second by Hillary Cherry. Roll call vote. Tom Martin: Yes, Shaun Tyson: Yes, Hillary Cherry: Yes, Tim Emrick: Yes, Renee Martin: Yes. Motion passed.
* In other new business, Tom Martin reported on Western Illinois and the Rural Affairs Council. Tom will get information and present at the next business meeting.

**Old business**

None

**Misc. business**

Matt Bobell reported on road improvements and square infrastructure projects on the corners of the square. Matt discussed the presentation that the Farnsworth Group made at the City Council meeting in regard to the motor fuel tax.

Attendance at upcoming City Council meeting was discussed. Tim, Shaun and Renee stated that they would attend.

Tom Martin volunteered the EAB to host the next business association meeting. The meeting will be on April 11 at 6:30 pm at the Lucky Lager.

There will be a Hilltop Community Meeting on April 12th.

Next meeting scheduled for April 9, 2018, at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Shaun Tyson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Renee Martin. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Hillary Cherry, Secretary