**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: August 4th, 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)** Erin Wyss conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Jim Birge, Erin Wyss, Andy Meister and Doug Johnson

**3) Introduction of guests**

Tom Martin

Allen Schahl

**4) Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of June Meeting minutes were presented by Jim Birge **Doug Johnson motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Andrew Meister all in favor, and motion passed.**

**5) Treasurer’s Report**

No report at this time

**Old Business**

**6) Desired Outcomes**

Project Updates

Improve and upgrade infrastructure

-Town Square Revitalization- Tom met with Rick and Dave. The progression of the revitalization is moving slow. Dave hopes to present to the council at the end of August. This project will not happen until Spring 2022. Rick may contribute up to $150,000 if necessary. Leaving the idea that the revitalization will be presented to the community Fall Festival 2022.

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

Attract and develop new businesses

- Frazier Park renovations- EDPB is hoping to get Frazier Park into the schools hands to get a plan developed for updating the park. Andy will head this and move forward with discussion to the park board, school board, and city council.

-Johnson TrueValue- Ribbon Cutting should be scheduled for September.

- Motion to approve up to $250.00 to prepare Economical Development Fliers for Ashley Sang.

Andrew Mesiter made Motion to approve funds from the community fund. **Roll Call-Jim Birge- Yes, Tyler Erin Wyss- yes, Hilary Cherry- yes, Doug Johnson-yes, Andy Meister- Yes. All votes in Favor motion passes.**

Attract and develop new businesses

-Community Grocery Store- Andy reports that Bonnie is doing well.The market is having some good sale days and staying busy.

-Day Care Steering Committee- Before and After School program through the YMCA is trying to get a fire inspection. The need for the before and after program is there but not enough time before school starts.

-Farm Fed Co-op Update- Tom reports that the Farm Fed Co-Op has a leadership. They are in need of a manager to phase in to take load off of the interim board. They are wanting a manager by 9/1/21 and are interviewing now. The Farm Fed Co-Op is - requesting phase in money to get to 10/01/21 to cover expenses in the amount of 10,000.00. Erin Wyss made a motion to approve 10,000.00.**Roll Call-Jim Birge- Yes, Tyler Erin Wyss- yes, Doug Johnson-yes, Andy Meister- Yes. All votes in Favor motion passes.**

- Admin position- EDPB will prepare duties but no hiring yet.

* Zoom meeting with City attorney Jordan Klein- Discussion of the new city ordinance.

Jordan Klein states the proposed changes as follows:

* Minimal amendment to current ordinance
* One council member to vote for either a large lump sum or advisory nature for EDPB to come to city council meetings every time to ask for expenditures

The EDPB information that was sent in for city audit raised some concerns but no audit inquiry yet. AG is not asking questions yet, but the city council would like to be more proactive to avoid future city audits or AG issues. Andrew raised concern about city council having absolute veto authority, if the EDPB is denied to use the money, there is no recourse for EDPB.IMC is specific that the city council must approve expenditures. 501c3 would allow EDPB to become a separate entity allowing removal of city council from the equation resulting in no contractions on how the EDPB can spend the money. However, once the money was put into city accounts and made payable to the city, it is subject to IMC and cannot be moved out of City Control states Jordan Klein.

* Enel/City Council- EDPB has decided to see how it plays out and speak with our council members.

**New Business-**

EDPB Two vacant positions- there was discussion of possible new people to talk with and see if they would like to join.

New Officers- Chairman- Jim Birge

Vice Chairman- Andrew Meister

Treasurer- Erin Wyss

**8) Executive Session**

No executive session

**9) Next Meeting September 1st , 2021**

**10) Adjournment**

**Jim Birge made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Meister, all in favor and motion passed.**