

Economic Development Commission
September 13, 2017 5:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Room

Call to order by Chair Steve Mabie

Roll Call - Steve Mabie, John Gaier, Tim Voigt, Gary Ruzic, Julie Counsell Absent Jana Marden, Tim Meyer

Minutes were approved as filed with the clerk

Appearances – none

Discussion and action on MMC utility expansion proposal. Representatives Ryan Neville, Russell Ratsch and Gary Weirauch. See attached proposal. Counsell asked why this proposal was not submitted in advance using the procedural guidelines the Commission put in place. Mabie stated he didn't think about it when approached by MMC. The Commission agreed that we need to follow the process but allowed the representatives to give information, but agreed no decision would be made tonight. Neville mentioned that a local group is interested in helping MMC with the project but wanted to run the request thru the city. Ratsch presented information regarding the current plan to put MMC's sewer line under the river using directional boring since they would not be allowed to hang it under the Hwy 10 bridge or the Cty Hwy B/5th St bridge.

Weirauch covered the financial impact of the sewer project as shown in the attachment. MMC stated that preliminary estimates of construction costs for this option would be between \$576,340 and \$613,605 based on a 6 or 8 inch diameter line. Of this MMC is proposing to cover \$58,740 with the city picking up the remainder. Counsell reminded MMC that they had pledged the project would not cost city taxpayers any money due to MMC's choice of a construction site outside of the city limits. Weirauch suggested that when MMC pays back the remainder of the \$1.5 million city loan, that the city immediately grant a portion of the payment back to MMC. Weirauch said this may be needed to cover construction costs as MMC's project is running over earlier budget estimates, with MMC already having to cut \$3 million from the project. Counsell pointed out this would leave the city still owing the money to the bank and asked why this shortfall in MMC funding should become a burden on city taxpayers. Weirauch stated that the city needs to help financially if the project is going to move forward. The group agreed that MMC needs to submit a detailed proposal, following Commission guidelines including submission 2 weeks in advance of the meeting date at which MMC wants it considered.

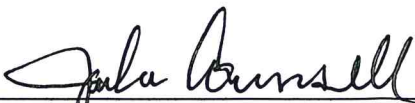
Discussion and action on the 2018 budget. See attached breakdown. Motion Voigt, 2nd Gaier to recommend a budget of \$15,633. All aye.

Discussion on community education of funding sources available to existing businesses as well as startups. See the attachment summarizing sources. Sheila Nyberg of Clark County Economic Development reviewed these as well as professional services available.

Discussion and action on attracting new businesses to the downtown district. Counsell and Nyberg present ideas for the group to work on. Group agreed that this is something we need to work on along with attracting middle to higher end housing options. We will continue to discuss at our next meeting.

Next meeting will be on November 8th at 5:30 at city hall.

Motion Counsell, 2nd Voigt to adjourn. All aye.



Secretary - Julie Counsell