MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 625 SWIFT BLVD.
Monday, November 21, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Bricker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE
Chairman Bricker, Vice-Chair Hughes, Committee Members Spencer, Knight, Morasch,

Member Pott's requested to be excused.

Also present were Development Services Director Jensen, Planner Arrasmith, Economic Development Manager Wallner, Economic Development Specialist Follett, and Administrative Assistant II Kirkpatrick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Chairman Bricker presented the agenda for approval. There were no changes or additions.

VICE-CHAIR HUGHES MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bricker opened the public comment period at 4:02 p.m. Having no one request time to address the committee, Chairman Bricker closed the public comment period at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 24, 2022 Minutes

Chairman Bricker introduced the meeting minutes from October 24, 2022. There were no changes or discussion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER HUGHES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2022. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Committee member Kesoju arrived after approval of October 24, 2022 meeting minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

2. Proposed Horn Rapids Farm Lease – RFP

Chairman Bricker recognized Planner Arrasmith to present the Horn Rapids Farm Lease with Frank Tiegs, LLC that expires on December 31, 2022. Frank Tiegs, LLC has leased the irrigation crop circles for the past tens years and an Evaluation and Scoring Committee recommend retention of the lease. There was very little changes to the lease and City will continue owning the surface irrigation equipment, which includes the pumps at the river station, booster pumps, and the center pivot equipment. At the conclusion of the presentation, he answered questions from committee members.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND KESOJU SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A TEN-YEAR FARM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FRANK TIEGS, LLC FOR THE LEASING OF 1,278 ACRES OF FARM LAND IN THE HORN RAPIDS INDUSTRIAL PARK. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

3. 2023 Business License Reserve Fund Application Review

Chairman Bricker recognized Economic Development Specialist Follett to present the staff report and information on Business License Reserve Fund grant applications. Mrs. Follett provided background on the program.

Ron Nealson from Washington State Small Business Development Center (SBDC) presented on what the last year looked like, the growth that has occurred within the organization, and what was accomplished. At the conclusion he answered committee member questions.

Gus Sako with Uptown Business Improvement District (UBID) spoke about what the Uptown needs, and what has been successful that they would like to continue. An example was as the Art Walk. They are asking for funds for marketing events and hosting events.

Mrs. Follett gave the applicant presentations for the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber (TCRC) regarding the Support Economic Gardening Program, and also Visit Tri-Cities for their Workforce Training program that gives grant money for employees who are seeking certifications.

Darin Warnick with Downtown (Parkway) Business Improvement District presented on being unable to use the awarded amount given last year due to scheduling issues and is applying for the same amount this year with the same intentions. The funds would be used for maintenance on benches and garbage cans.

Mrs. Follett provided the presentation for the annual Commercial Façade Improvement Program application. She outlined the program objectives and past examples of what the money has been used for.

At the conclusion of the presentations, committee members deliberated what they would like to be funded to award the total amount of $150,000. Included with the minutes is the committee members recommendations.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER KESOJU SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED IN DISCUSSION WITH STAFF. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

4. 990 Gillespie Street (600 Cullum Avenue) Surplus

Chairman Bricker recognized Planner Arrasmith to present the proposed land surplus. The property is located along the northern property line of Gillespie Parkway and is approximately 20 feet of real property. It is currently a paved parking lot that was used by the former Days Inn motel. At the conclusion of his presentation, he answered questions from committee members.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND VICE-CHAIR HUGHES SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE SURPLUS OF THE NORTH 20 FFEET OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE GILLESPIE PARKWAY LOCATED AT 990 GILLESPIE STREET. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bricker adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Prepared by: Carly Kirkpatrick
Carly Kirkpatrick, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: MWallner
Mandy Wallner, Economic Development Manager

Approved by: Brad Bricker
Brad Bricker, Chairman