



**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, April 15, 2024
Richland City Hall - Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bricker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Chair Bricker, Vice-Chair Morasch, Committee Members Spencer, Hall, Potts, Griffin, and Hughes.

Also present were Council Member Jones, Economic Development Manager Wallner, Economic Development Specialist Follett and Administrative Assistant II Kirkpatrick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bricker presented the agenda for approval. There were no changes or additions.

COMMITTEE MEMBER HUGHES MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE PRESENTATION TO BE MOVED BEFORE ITEMS OF BUSINESS. MOTION PASSED 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Bricker opened the public comment period at 4:03 p.m. Having no one request time to address the committee, Chair Bricker closed the public comment period at 4:03.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 22, 2024, Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Bricker introduced the meeting minutes from January 22, 2024. There were no changes or discussion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GRIFFIN MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024. MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Committee member French arrived at 4:04 after approval of agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

Karl Dye with TRIDEC gave a presentation that provided an overview of the organization's history, tracing its evolution from its origin to its current standing. Key achievements and successes in 2023 were highlighted that included Atlas Agro, ATI Materials and Framatome. Looking ahead to 2024, Mr. Dye outlined the organization's strategic objectives including Industries, New Nuclear and Workforce items. Notably, attention was drawn to the Energy Forward Alliance, a collaborative effort aimed at advancing sustainable energy solutions and environmental stewardship within the community.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

2. Commercial Facade Improvement Program – 1010 AND 1016 Lee Boulevard

Economic Specialist Follett presented the Commercial Facade Improvement Program staff report and read a description of what the building owner would like to do with the awarded funds. 1010 and 1016 Lee Boulevard is the current home of New Beginnings Thrift Store, and the owner of the building would like to do a refresh of the exterior facing Lee Boulevard.

At the conclusion of Economic Specialist Follett's presentation, members discussed the merits of the application and asked questions about the proposed project.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER GRIFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CFIP2024-100 APPLICATION IN FULL AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Economic Specialist Follett started with going over what is going on downtown, and upcoming events. She then recognized that Richland has lost one cruise boat, but still maintains American Dream Cruises dockings. Next, she went over the Farmer's Market being number one in state and will be in the Parkway again from June to November. Uptown has really stacked their calendar, so she encouraged them to check their website for upcoming events. They also have 2 new murals that she would like to encourage the Committee to go out and see. May 11 is the art walk, first of June is the mushroom event (also falls on free comic book Saturday).

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Economic Manager Wallner stated that conversations are still occurring for Tracts D & E that will be coming soon. Thursday of this week there is a site visit for a steel maker and is there 4 or 5th interaction with them. TUA continues to be in the news and have 3 prospective prospects. WEDA awarded Richland and the TUA at their last conference. Grant request have been submitted for a couple of projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bricker adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Carly Kirkpatrick
Carly Kirkpatrick, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: Mandy Wallner
Mandy Wallner, Economic Development Manager

Approved by: Brad Bricker
Brad Bricker, Chairman