MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.

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

ATTENDANCE
Chairman Bricker, Committee Members Chacon, Holmberg, Hughes, Knight, Spencer, Richardson, and Newman. (Members Chacon and Hughes joined after the approval of the agenda.)

Also present were Council Liaison Christensen, Development Services Director Jensen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Economic Development Manager Jacobs, Economic Development Planner Arrasmith, Marketing Specialist Wallner and Administrative Assistant Follett.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Chairman Bricker presented the agenda and noted a request to move the property surplus item from third to the first item for consideration.

COMMITTEE MEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE IN ITEM ORDER. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Bricker introduced the meeting minutes from November 23, 2020 and December 28, 2020.

MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND MEMBER NEWMAN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

MEMBER HUGHES MOVED AND MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2020. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. **Declaration of Approximately 3,000 Square Feet of City Owned Property as Surplus and Vacation of a Public Access Easement.**

Chairman Bricker recognized Mr. Schiessl to provide the staff presentation. Mr. Schiessl showed a map of subject property and reviewed the reasons for the surplus request. During his presentation, Mr. Schiessl provided information about future trail plans in the area and spoke to code provisions related to this type of land transaction.

At the conclusion of his presentation members asked several questions about future plans in the area.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CHACON MOVED AND MEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL DECLARE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 SQUARE FEET OF PARCEL NUMBER 102882070000069, WITHIN THE PLAT OF REATA HEIGHTS, CONSISTENT WITH THE ASSOCATED EXHIBIT MAP, AS SURPLUS OT THE CITY PURSUANT TO RMC 3.06. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

2. Business License Reserve Fund Application Review

Chairman Bricker asked Ms. Wallner to present the staff report and information on Business License Reserve Fund grant applications.

Ms. Wallner provided background on the program and overall timeline for this round of awards.

Sherly McGrath, SBDC Associate State Director for the Washington State Small Business Development Center (SBDC), gave a presentation on the services the SBDC provides to local Richland businesses. She provided history of the Washington State SBDC and details on how funds would be used based on the amount requested.

Logan LaPierre, Program Manager at the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber, presented the request for funding for Economic Gardening. Mr. LaPierre provided details on how businesses are chosen, support and services provided to each business in the program and how the program is administered. After his presentation members asked questions to clarify how business are recruited to the program and ultimately selected.

Ms. Wallner gave the applicant presentation for Alley Mural Art on behalf of the Uptown BID. She noted this is a separate initiative from the past mural program at the Uptown. Several members commented about other cities that have a public art space similar to what the Uptown is working toward.

Ms. Wallner also provided the presentation for the annual Commercial Façade Improvement Program application. She outlined the program objectives and past examples.

MEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2021 BUSINESS LICENSE RESERVE FUND APPLICATIONS IN FULL AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 7-0. (MEMBER CHACON WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE)

3. Purchase and Sale Agreement in Horn Rapids Industrial Park – John Watson

Chairman Bricker asked Mr. Arrasmith to provide the staff report for the purchase and sale of land in Horn Rapids. Mr. Arrasmith provided members with the proposed project and information about the parcel Mr. Watson wants to purchase.

He noted Mr. Watson is planning an expansion which will add an additional 20 jobs

Chairman Bricker commented favorably about the number of jobs this project will create and voiced support for this type of development.

MEMBER SPENDER MOVED AND MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF 1.5 ACRES IN THE HORN RAPIDS INDUSTRIAL AREA TO JOHN WATSON.
MOTION PASSED 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Jensen commented on his upcoming presentation to Council regarding development in 2020. He noted that single family home construction was up during 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bricker adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Prepared by: Lynne Follett
Lynne Follett, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: Joe Jacobs
Joe Jacobs, Economic Development Manager

Approved by: Brad Bricker
Brad Bricker, Chairman