MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

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

ATTENDANCE
Chairman Bricker, Committee Members Chacon, Holmberg, Knight, Spencer, and Richardson.

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Bricker introduced the meeting minutes from January 11, 2021. There was no discussion or changes suggested.

MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND MEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2021.
MOTION PASSED 6-0.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. CFIP2021-001 Academy of Children's Theater (ACT)

Chairman Bricker recognized Ms. Wallner to provide the staff presentation. Ms. Wallner gave a brief overview and introduced Ann Spillman, representing ACT. Ms. Spillman offered thanks to the City for support over the years and provided details about the current project and progress. After her presentation several committee members asked questions about other interior improvements as well as questions to clarify façade improvement plans.

COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLMBERG MOVED AND MEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL FUND THE ACT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FULLEST AMOUNT RECOMMENDED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

2. CFIP2021-002 610 The Parkway, LLC. – 1515 WRIGHT

Chairman Bricker asked Ms. Wallner to present the staff report. Ms. Wallner read a statement provided by the applicant outlining their plans and reasons for the project. The building, recently purchased by 610 The Parkway, LLC. is a multi-tenant space that has a history of vacancies and is in disrepair. The proposed project will completely renovate the existing building to include new windows, doors and store front. There will also be new stucco façade and repair of any brickwork existing on the building. The building will initially be occupied by current tenants opting to stay as well as a new computer tech company bringing high paying jobs to the area.

At the conclusion of Ms. Wallner's presentation, members discussed the merits of the application and asked questions about current tenants and number of planned store fronts once the façade improvement is complete.

MEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND MEMBER KNIGHT SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE CFIP2021-002 APPLICATION IN FULL AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

3. BLRF2021-006 SCORE

Chairman Bricker asked Ms. Wallner to present the staff report for the SCORE Business License Reserve Fund application. Ms. Wallner explained that the applicant had an emergency and could not be at the meeting last minute so she would present the item on their behalf in effort to move it forward. The business seminar program that SCORE plans to offer with this funding is a new program they would design for Richland businesses and others in the area. She provided details about COVID response to support local businesses and the exhibited need for this type of program.

During discussion, committee members debated the merits of the program and the benefits to Richland even for business support of businesses not located in Richland. Members generally agreed the program fit the desired outcomes and voiced support for the response to COVOD-19 pandemic. It was agreed upon with staff that additional metrics would be required along with listing Richland as a sponsor.

MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND MEMBER HOLMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE BUSINESS LICENSE RESERVE FUNGING FOR SCORE IN THE AMOUNT PROPOSED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

4. Purchase and Sale Agreement – R & R Property Enterprises, LLC

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. He also provided information about why the previous agreement for this piece of property did not move forward.

Members expressed disappointment that this project was not planning to bring as many jobs as the previous project but otherwise voiced support. Mr. Arrasmith also briefly discussed real estate pricing in general and the current effort by staff to evaluate the pricing in effect.

MEMBER KNIGHT MOVED AND MEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF 1.5 ACRES IN THE HORN RAPIDS INDUSTRIAL AREA TO R & R PROPERTY ENTERPRISED, LLC. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bricker adjourned the meeting at 4:49 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