

Waynesboro Economic Development Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Friday, September 10, 2021
301 W Main Street, Waynesboro

Members Present: Ms. Mary Sullivan
Ms. Angie Bandy
Mr. George Reed
Mr. Mark Snyder
Ms. Tami Radecke
Ms. Brenda Arkward
Mr. Chris Ornelas

Others Present: Mr. Greg Hitchin- Director of Economic Development & Tourism
Ms. Jennifer Callison- Tourism & Marketing Manager
Ms. Stephanie Duffy- Administrative Assistant

Welcome

Ms. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM and thanked everyone for attending. Members went around the table and introduced themselves for the new member, Chris Ornelas.

Approval of Minutes

There was one spelling correction to the minutes from the regular August 17, 2021 meeting which will be updated, Ms. Radecke made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Snyder and passed by unanimous vote.

Financial Report

Mr. Hitchin gave a report on the financials for September. There were no bills to approve and five debit card transactions. In the operating account, there were three transactions totaling \$417.99 for Beerwerks postage and in the RLF account, two transactions totaling \$6.65 for auto debit service associated with the EDA RLF program. Ms. Arkward made a motion to approve the financial reports and checks as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Snyder and passed by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

- a. **Audit:** Ms. Bandy received the bank reconciliation review and signed off on the report for September.

Grant Opportunities

Mr. Hitchin gave an update on some current grant opportunities. Staff is considering additional grants as part of the EDA The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding. These grants require a 20% match and staff will be working with the city for the match. These are NOT part of the allocation received by the city as part of the locality's ARPA funds. The first grant would help with water and sewer infrastructure construction at Natures Crossing Technology Center and also incorporate a tourism initiative to establish a "Valley Visitor Experience" center on East Main Street, which may or may not include a connector trail to the Crozet Tunnel. The second grant opportunity would be through the VEDP Business Ready Sites Program and would also be for water and sewer infrastructure at NCTC. Details of the program are still being finalized. In order to apply, the 2018 construction costs need to be updated. Mr. Hitchin has been working with

Timmons and is expecting an updated estimate in the coming days which he will present to the board via email.

Monthly Updates

- a. **Downtown Redevelopment:** Mr. Hitchin shared that the new group of DDW Directors continue to be energized and busy planning some holiday events.
- b. **Tourism:** no additional updates were provided.
- b. **Industrial Properties:** no updates were provided on the industrial properties but Mr. Hitchin did update the group on some recent projects outside of Waynesboro. Recently it was announced that a 1M sq ft warehousing space would be built in Augusta County. This project went directly to Augusta County and Waynesboro was not contacted about opportunities within the city. The Governor also made an announcement on September 9, 2021 that CAVA, a Washington, D.C.-based fast-casual Mediterranean restaurant chain, will invest over \$30 million to establish a new processing and packaging operation in Augusta County. Waynesboro did submit for this project for the industrial park but was unsuccessful. The current projection for NCTC to be online is 2025.

Other Business/Discussion

There was some brief discussion about the Waynesboro Marketplace project- the former Ladd school has been demolished and the project is moving forward quickly with the first five stores set to be open by summer 2022. The hotel construction behind Plaza Antiqua is also moving along.

Correspondence and Communication of the Chairman

Next meeting: October 8, 2021, planned for in-person at economic development office.

There being no other business to discuss Ms. Radecke made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted ___/___/___

Certified as approved ___/___/___

Stephanie Duffy
Recording Secretary

Gregory E. Hitchin
Secretary/Treasurer