

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JORDAN
IN THE COUNTY OF SCOTT
JANUARY 22, 2020**

Present: Joe Thill, Tanya Velishek, Amanda Schuh, Ryan Dahnert, Dr. Chuck Cook

Absent: Ron Jabs and Ray Sandey

Also Present: Tom Nikunen, City Administrator, Nathan Fuerst, Planner/Economic Development Specialist, Megan Pavek, Planning Intern

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2.0 ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Thill, second by Schuh, to amend the agenda to include interchange updates. Vote all ayes. Motion approved.

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Chair

Chair Sandey has informed the EDA and staff that he does plan on renewing his term.

Motion by Velishek, second by Thill to elect Dahnert as Chair. Vote all ayes. Motion approved.

B. Vice Chair

Motion by Schuh, second by Dahnert to elect Thill as Vice Chair. Vote all ayes. Motion approved.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 19, 2019

Motion by Schuh, second by Velishek to approve the minutes of November 19, 2019. Vote all ayes. Motion approved.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS
A. 2020 Strategic Plan

Fuerst suggested reviewing the mission statement and goals from the 2020 strategic plan.

Dahnert inquired on whether there will still be a joint work session with council. He would like to use this strategic plan as a baseline and hear council feedback during this work session. Nikunen agreed with this.

Cook arrived at the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Thill expressed excitement for the new wine bar that is opening in the upcoming spring. He stated that this new business will spur growth and hopefully draw more businesses into this part of the city.

Dahnert inquired on the status of the Chamber of Commerce.

Nikunen responded that it has formally dissolved.

EDA members began discussing whether any mention of the Chamber should be removed from the strategic plan. They suggested changing some of the wording so that the Chamber is no longer part of plan. One recommendation was changing the goal “cultivate relationship with Chamber” to “cultivate relationship with local businesses.”

Dahnert inquired on how this impacts the roles of the City and the EDA in welcoming new businesses to town. Does the dissolution of the Chamber require them to be more involved?

Thill suggested forming a welcome committee and offering a ribbon cutting event for each new business.

Fuerst stated that the City has been offering ribbon cuttings to new businesses, and he has been hoping to create a welcome packet to give to new businesses in the city.

Thill suggested having a coffee hour with members of council, the EDA, and local businesses. He also talked about the importance of using apps like Google Calendar when trying to facilitate these meetings.

Nikunen stated that having a central webpage for a business is becoming outdated because most people have access to smart phones today.

Fuerst stated that he has offered to help businesses that struggle with technology in the past. This is another service that the City can refine and offer through outreach.

Fuerst confirmed that the EDA wants the fifth goal on the strategic plan to be changed so that reference to the Chamber is removed.

Nikunen reminded the EDA that it would be beneficial for everyone if the EDA is familiar with this plan before attending the work session with council.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of 2019 EDA Grants

Fuerst provided a quick recap of grants awarded in 2019. Multiple storefronts have benefitted from these façade grants in the past year, including the building that will house Mousse Winery, the Pickled Pig, and another building downtown that is still under construction.

Thill inquired on whether a façade grant will be used on the food shelf building.

Schuh inquired whether there were any other projects in the works in regards to these grants.

Fuerst responded that he had received some interest from Nicollet Mansion.

7.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

A. General Management Updates

Nikunen presented information on the 169 Interchange Project. Council had a special work session on this topic at their last meeting. EDA members were shown concept designs for the interchange including renderings detailing visibility of businesses from 169 with the proposed design. The City has contracted Kimley Horn to perform environmental studies which are underway.

Two roundabouts will be implemented as part of the overall project to improve traffic flow and efficiency. Wolf Motors, Rademacher's, and other area businesses are very supportive of the proposed design.

The preliminary design is anticipated to be finished in April 2020. The project does not have a timeline since the City is currently seeking federal funds.

Dahnert inquired about how much more involvement that the City will have in the planning process moving forward.

Nikunen stated that the City Council will not receive another opportunity to vote on the interchange.

B. Next Meeting- February 18, 2020

8.0 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE

9.0 COMMISSIONER MEMBER REPORT

Thill has an inquiry about utilizing new technology as a promotion and as outreach to new businesses.

Dahnert inquired about new property and housing.

Nikunen responded that the Pieper property has been purchased and the city is hopeful that a new business will utilize this space in the near future. He predicted that development will increase once the interchange project is established.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cook, second by Thill, to adjourn. Vote all ayes. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Tanya Velishek, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tom Nikunen
City Administrator