

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
July 8, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 8:02AM on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, by Chairperson Rich Francois in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall, 121 West Calhoun, Woodstock, Illinois. A roll call was taken by Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Smiley.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Francois, Craig Hallenstein, Arlene Lynes, and Henry Patel.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ryan O'Connor

**STAFF PRESENT:** Cort Carlson, Director of Community and Economic Development, Economic Development Coordinator Joe Napolitano, and Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Smiley.

C. Carlson introduced the City's new Economic Development Coordinator Joe Napolitano who provided a brief biography to the Commission.

**GENERAL BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

**SURVEY SUMMARY LETTER**

C. Carlson stated that he has made the changes requested by the Commission members and that the members will find the revised letter at their places for review. Mr. Carlson explained the plan to present this to the City Council as a discussion item.

C. Hallenstein stated that he feels the letter would be stronger if the two major concerns expressed by the survey participants were highlighted as property taxes and congestion on Rt. 47. He also stated that the other concerns expressed, namely downtown parking and problems on the Square, were expressed by some participants but that other participants disagreed. Property taxes and congestion on Rt. 47 were expressed as complaints by nearly all respondents. Henry Patel discussed making Rt. 47 a higher priority.

C. Carlson stated that the letter is a summary of the survey results and the concerns expressed by the participants, not a prioritization by the Commission. He discussed the Rt. 47 commission and their plans which will be unveiled tomorrow at Aurora University at a public meeting. R. Francois noted that it will be up to the City Council to prioritize the information which the Commission forwards to them. The Commission should ask themselves how the survey results will be used as a planning tool.

C. Carlson then provided information on the City's efforts to move forward the Route 47 improvement projects, including grants and lobbying efforts. Information is being gathered about the specific benefits of the improvements which will be used to create promotional materials to be provided to the lobbyist. This information, which will show

what benefits the City, our residents, and visitors City will derive from the improvements, will be used by the lobbyist in Springfield to move the project forward.

## COMMISSION COMMENTS/UPDATES

### RETAILERS' MEETING

C. Carlson stated that the City is going to hold a meetings for the retailers to come and meet with the City Council to allow the businesses the opportunity to speak directly with the Council.

### SAFETY CHECKS ON ROUTE 47

R. Francois stated that it puzzles him that the Police Department conducts safety checks on Route 47 on the day before Memorial Day. He feels that this reflects badly on the City and does not present a good image.

C. Carlson explained that this is not a program of Woodstock itself, but is part of a statewide safety check program to curb holiday weekend traffic accidents. H. Patel stated this program should be moved to another area, rather than Rt. 47. Discussion followed of this program and various other locations which could be used. C. Carlson will discuss this with the Chief of Police.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

C. Carlson noted that Quad Graphics, the former Brown Printing, is closing their printing plant. He further noted that Quad is known for purchasing other printing plants for their business, as they did with Brown, and then closing them down and moving the business to their other plants. He stated that Quad has indicated that they will be offering displaced employees relocation packages to their other facilities. Mr. Carlson stated that staff has already reached out to the McHenry County Workforce Center and that Quad did as well. He further noted that other companies who are looking for employees have stepped up and are willing to interview the displaced employees and that a job fair is planned.

C. Carlson provided an update on the winery which is looking to locate in Woodstock. He stated that the City is trying to assist with negotiations between the current property owner and the purchaser, noting that it is possible that a TIF District may be used to incentivize the property. R. Francois noted this should be given a high priority.

C. Carlson noted that a new store will be opening in the former salon building next to Dave's Guitar. He stated that this is being opened by the daughter of the owner of the former Buffalo Trading Company, with a similar concept as that store, including antiques, home décor, and New Age items.

C. Carlson then discussed the communication from the retailers concerning the Revolution Youth Center on Benton Street. The City is trying to assist in addressing some of the concerns of the retailers. Revolution has modified their hours and is reviewing their mission. Mr. Carlson further noted that no one faults the Youth Center or their mission but rather questions whether this is the proper location for such a facility.

C. Carlson stated that City staff is looking to better market the city's industrial sites and researching methods to promote the available sites. As part of this effort, the City is reaching out to an organization called the Association of Industrial Real Estate Brokers. Discussion followed of various incentives and methods that could be used to attract manufacturers to these sites.

C. Carlson stated that a new restaurant, Munch!, will be opening at the site of the former Golden Rolls restaurant.

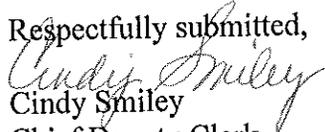
Discussion followed of various businesses on the Woodstock Square.

C. Carlson provided an update on the Old Courthouse project, including a synopsis of the two proposals that have been received in response to the RFP.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion by C. Hallenstein, second by A. Lynes, to adjourn to the next regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission on Tuesday, August 12th at 8:00AM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Ayes: Francois, Hallenstein, Lynes, and Patel. Nays: None. Absentees: O'Connor. Abstentions: none. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned 9:10AM

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cindy Smiley  
Chief Deputy Clerk