

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
June 4, 2020  
Council Chambers**

A Regular Meeting of the City of Woodstock Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairman Rick Francois at 8:05 AM on Thursday, June 4, 2020 virtually, via Zoom webinar due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home mandate.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY:** Chris McGowan, John Buckley and Chairman Rick Francois.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wayne Read and Henry Patel.

**STAFF PRESENT REMOTELY:** Economic Development Director Garrett Anderson, Business Development Coordinator George Hahne, and Executive Assistant/Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie.

**OTHERS PRESENT REMOTELY:** None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by J. Buckley, second by C. McGowan, to accept the Minutes from the March 5, 2020 meeting. Ayes: C. McGowan, J. Buckley, and Chair R. Francois. Nays: none. Absentees: W. Read and H. Patel. Abstentions: none. Motion carried; Minutes were accepted.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by J. Buckley, second C. McGowan, to accept the Minutes from the May 1, 2020 meeting. Ayes: C. McGowan, J. Buckley and Chair R. Francois. Nays: none. Absentees: W. Read and H. Patel. Abstentions: none. Motion carried; Minutes were accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

G. Anderson explained that the City has been proactive in assisting restaurants and bars with outdoor dining, as approved by City Council just prior to Governor Pritzker's announcement to include outdoor dining in Phase 2, and before the start of Phase 3.

Mr. Anderson continued on to explain the City's emergency loan program, which includes a \$5,000 loan for qualified and approved businesses, a 3% interest rate with a one-year grace period and a three-year payback. The City has issued approximately 60 emergency loans and had \$500,000 available. He explained that many of the applicants

are small businesses; many in the service industry, and about half of the businesses are on the Square. Mr. Anderson said at the next City Council meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>, Council will be asked to expand the emergency loan program to include non-profits. Some of the guidelines include, the business must have a brick & mortar location and they must include some retail. Staff is open to additional guidelines such as the number of employees. Further discussion ensued on the not-for-profit businesses as it pertains to these loans.

G. Anderson said he's meeting with a countywide group tomorrow to determine what businesses ongoing needs may be in our community; what needs are not being met. R. Francois said a lot of this is at the state level. R. Francois mentioned that video gaming is out of service due to the fact that people cannot go into restaurants and bars. This effects businesses and government at all levels. Some of Mr. Buckley's concerns included: do employers need help with purchasing PPE, hand sanitizers and disinfectants? He asked if there are any group purchasing opportunities in the area? In response, G. Anderson said the county is facilitating an employee protection; there is a small grant program available to assist employers to adjust their business practices during the pandemic. G. Anderson hopes to hear more about this at the meeting tomorrow. J. Buckley asked if business owners are seeing an uptick in mental health issues due to the pandemic; quarantine, shelter-in-place, comfort level of returning back to work; depression, general anxiety level. He added that staff members may be very concerned about returning to work; what kind of support should be in place to assist?

With regard to the areas/districts that Governor Pritzker put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, R. Francois asked about McHenry County divorcing itself from the City of Chicago/Cook County. G. Anderson said McHenry County came together in unity; however, the request fell on deaf ears; although there has been some pushback. The option would have been joining the Rockford-area district.

R. Francois asked about the Black Lives Matter protest/march that took place on the Square on Sunday evening, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Francois asked how the group notified the City, if there is a permitting process involved, and how the City notifies the community. There was a brief discussion on how the City was informed of the event, where the information was shared, and how Woodstock Police Department handled the situation. G. Anderson added that Krista Coltrin has a list of email addresses for local business owners and building landlords. Often times, Ms. Coltrin forwards this type of information to this group. The City believes there were over 500 people that participated and/or attended the event. J. Buckley said he believes this same group was in Huntley earlier in the day; however, that event was much smaller.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:**

### **1. Project Activity Report – June 2020**

G. Anderson said a couple of new businesses have opened; Consumer Credit Counseling opened in the Pioneer Center's building, a ladies clothing manufacturer opened on Wanda Lane, Oliver's Bar & Grill, and Antioch Pizza. My Little Bow Peeps Boutique is

preparing to open in The Thoughtfulness Shop. FasTacos hopes to open in their new space this summer, which is across the street from their current location. Mr. Anderson mentioned additional City programs that are available to assist new businesses; historic tax credits and grant funding, to name a few. Chipotle and T-Mobile are both moving forward. Permits have been received for Cedarhurst, a 75,000 square foot assisted-living space off of Route 14 near the hospital. Kishwaukee Brewing on McConnell Road is going very well. Frisbie & Lohmeyer is moving into the old historic gas station, which they are in the process of renovating, just off of Main Street. The foundation has been poured for Woodstock Square Apartments and they are moving along. Kunes Auto Group's permit has been approved and they're moving forward. They informed the City that their sales for the month of March were scarce; however, they are almost back to normal now. The people that are stopping by are mostly serious buyers. They believe they will continue to do well as long as the auto manufacturers continue building vehicles. There was some discussion pertaining to renters in the Old Courthouse. The City is not yet negotiating incentives or leases.

G. Anderson said Mr. Hahne has several leads on restaurants and retailers; people are very interested in Woodstock.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS / UPDATES:** none.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by J. Buckley, second by C. McGowan, to adjourn this meeting. Ayes: C. McGowan, J. Buckley and Chair R. Francois. Nays: none. Absentees: W. Read and H. Patel. Abstentions: none. Motion carried. Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:58 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie  
Chief Deputy City Clerk