

Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 - 4:30 p.m. - City Council Chambers

Members present: Morack, O'Connell, Steinhorst, Dyreson, Schirpke, Romberg, and Shaw (5:05). Excused: Tate.

Also present: Mayor Henke, Kent Hager, Paul Hanlon, Dick Koeppen and Tom Spilman.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30 p.m. O'Connell/Dyreson to adopt the agenda. Carried 7-0.
2. Chairman Morack introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Dick Koeppen, Chairman of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Koeppen explained that prior to being elected to the County Board, he served 14 years on the Clintonville City Council, plus four years as Mayor of Clintonville. He is currently the President of the Wisconsin Counties Association. He has been on the Board of Directors for the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for 10 years, and he is currently the President of the Shawano Medical Center Board of Directors. Chairman Koeppen thanked the Economic Development Committee for not only inviting him to speak to the Committee, but thanked the Committee for all the hard work they do to better our community and Waupaca County. Mr. Koeppen described the budget situation with the County when he first took the position as Chairman of the County Board. There was some obvious distrust between the elected officials and the County Board regarding how the County budget was prepared and implemented. Through a long process of working together, the situation is now one of trust and partnership. The staff operates as a team and presents their draft budget to the County Board who acts in their roll as policy makers. The County operates a budget of over 70 million dollars with 24 individual departments. By working together the budget has been modified enough to keep it balanced. Mr. Koeppen went on to describe the recently established \$13 million dollar capital improvement program that will be implemented over the next three years. When asked how the County approaches the topic of "economic development" Mr. Koeppen described that they rely on the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation, of which the City of New London is a member, to carry out their economic development efforts. He noted that economic development is principally accomplished by taking care of your own existing businesses rather than going out and trying to recruit new economic activities to the County. Mr. Koeppen ended his presentation by giving a plaque to the City on which was engraved an inspiring quote by President Roosevelt that was delivered in Paris in 1910. We all thanked Chairman Koeppen for his visit with the Committee and wished him much luck in helping Waupaca County move forward.
3. The Committee next considered how to proceed with review of the developers' proposals for the City downtown river front property.

Mayor Henke led off the discussion with a slide show from the recent tour a number of Committee members and Planning Commission members were able to take to visit two of the developers projects. One was in Oshkosh and the other was in Weyauwega. Mayor Henke was also able to get several photos of the one developer's projects that the group was not able to visit in person. The Committee reviewed in detail the draft set of questions intended to be utilized when we interview the developers. Administrator Hager prepared the draft questions. The Committee made several changes to the document. The Committee set the following dates to invite the developers to attend and be interviewed: Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 4:30 pm., Tuesday, February 21st, 4:30 pm, and Tuesday, February 28th, 5:30 pm. Administrator Hager will contact the three developers and ask them to attend one of the above meeting dates. He will also supply them with a copy of the questions the Committee intends to discuss with them regarding their development proposals.

4. Administrator Hager reviewed his monthly report with the Committee.
5. It was noted that Outagamie County Executive, Tom Nelson will be our guest next month. It was suggested that Mark Fleese be invited to visit the Committee at the March meeting.
6. Under other matter, Mayor Henke suggested that it may be beneficial for the Committee to sit down and visit with some of our larger employers to get better acquainted with their businesses and offer our assistance. All agreed that this would be a good idea to follow through with.
7. O'Connell/Schirpke to adjourn. Carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Kent Hager
City Administrator