

Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, March 4, 2014 - 4:30 p.m. - City Council Chambers

Members present: Morack, O'Connell, Romberg, Schirpke, and Shaw. Steinhorst, Dyreson and Tate were excused.

Also present: Mayor Henke, Administrator Hager, Missy Porath, Kathy Gwidt, and Sandy DuFrane.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30 p.m. O'Connell/Shaw to adopt the agenda. Carried 5-0.
2. Chairman Morack welcomed Missy Porath and Kathy Gwidt. The Mayor Henke and Chairman Morack reported to the Committee regarding a concept that was the topic of a presentation at the League of Municipalities conference which they attended. The concept is called Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, or CEO. The program is funded by local business investors and is open to high school juniors and seniors. Students are selected to participate in the program thru a rigorous application process. The students meet for 90 minutes each day, ordinarily outside the school grounds. Students receive 2 high school credits for completing the program. The program utilizes area businesses as classrooms. Students visit dozens of area businesses each year. The emphasis is on 21st century learning skills. The program provides the opportunity for each student to start their own business. Each CEO student has a mentor from the local business community. Missy Porath who runs the Charter School of Enterprise Marketing and School Superintendent Kathy Gwidt visited with the Committee about their Charter School efforts and how the CEO program may be able to work into the Charter School concept. It was agreed by those present that full implementation of the CEO program would not be feasible for New London. However, perhaps segments of the program may be of use. It was agreed that everyone would keep the principles of the CEO program in mind as we move into the future implementation of the Charter School concept.
3. Sandy DuFrane updated the committee regarding contacts she has had with prospective North East New London Business Center industry.
4. Chairman Morack informed the Committee that the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 25th at 4:30 pm.
5. O'Connell/Schirpke to adjourn. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Kent Hager
City Administrator