

Minutes

Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – 4:30 pm – New London City Council Chambers & via Zoom

Members present: Morack, Faucher, O'Connell, Pinch, Thompson, Bishop, Kopitzke, Dorsey, Zaug, D. Herter and Asman. Others present: C. Hoerth, Besaw, Barrington, Ann Hunt, Ron Steinhorst and J. Beyer. Mayor was present via zoom, until he arrived in person. Voting members present: 14

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30pm. O'Connell/Zaug to approve the agenda. Carried. The April 28, 2020 minutes were approved.
2. April Kopitzke presented a rough draft of a grant proposal for city small businesses. She cited proposed criteria for applicants and the funds available from the façade grant program. The amount each business could apply for was discussed, as well as how long to leave applications open; also discussed was awarding the money, first come-first served or other basis. O'Connell/Asman to go ahead with a City Business grant. Approval criteria were discussed. Carried with all ayes. This will be a Finance Committee agenda item.
3. Morack/Zaug to reconsider the negotiations for an agreement on developing the waterfront property. Carried with all ayes. Morack explained how this project has developed and how 'we got here'. He stated the project needs a project manager, as the City does not have staff that is trained for those duties. An amended motion made by O'Connell/Zaug to continue efforts at negotiating a contract to move forward with the riverfront development. Discussion regarding some ideas of how to approach the contract were presented by Hans Thompson. He felt the city needs to identify its needs and what its end result should look like. A sub-Committee was formed to handle the development of the contract. The members include: Mayor Herter, Hans Thompson, Faucher, Dorsey and Morack. They will meet on Thursday to start. Asman called for a vote: Roll Call Vote on the motion to continue efforts of a contract Carried with all yes votes.
4. April Kopitzke gave her business update. Her report showed percent of businesses Open/Partially Open/Closed due to the Covid-19. Unemployment in Waupaca County in April was 18.9%.
5. Morack recommended Council approval of April Kopitzke serving as interim Economic Development Director, receiving a per diem and mileage for meetings attended.
6. Next months' meeting will have David Thiel as the invited guest.
7. There was no public comment.
8. O'Connell/Zaug moved to adjourn at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jackie Beyer, City Clerk