



Hammond Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2013

The meeting of the Hammond Economic Development Commission was called to order at 9:20 am on Monday, February 4, 2013. The meeting was held at the Department of Planning & Development, 649 Conkey Street, Hammond, IN.

Members Present

Bonnie Henry, Vice President
Charles V. Pettersen, Secretary
Belia Ybarra, Member
John Vezmar, Member

Members Absent

Richard Blastic, President

There is a quorum.

Others Present

Beth Downes Jacobson, Director of Economic Development
Nicole Bennett, Attorney for Economic Development Commission
Janet Venecz, Councilwoman
Anne Anderson, Marketing Coordinator

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bonnie Henry at 9:20am.

II. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

III. Communications

A letter dated 1/23/13, addressed to Jason T. Miles, Environment Scientist at American Structurepoint, 7260 Shadeland Station, Indianapolis, IN 46256, was mailed to the Commissions members on 1/28/13 to review. It stated that the Commission was in support of the Chicago Street Widening and Reconstruction Plan and had no concerns at the time. There were no other communications.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Secretary Pettersen to approve the minutes, with corrections; Commissioner Ybarra seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

1. Introduction of New Members

John Vezmar of Vezmar Media Group was introduced as the new Lake County Council member, replacing Louis Karubas, whose term expired January 31, 2013.

2. Election of Officers

Absent Commission President Rich Blastic told Beth Jacobson via a prior phone call to go ahead with the election of the members in his absence. President Blastic stated he would retain his office of President if no one opposed. He would also surrender position if anyone else wanted it. Secretary Pettersen nominated to retain Rich Blastic as President and Commissioner Ybarra seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Pettersen nominated Bonnie Henry to retain the office of Vice President. There were no other nominations for the Vice President. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Henry nominated Charles Pettersen to retain the office of Secretary and Commissioner Ybarra seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Pettersen moved to reappoint Westland, Kramer and Bennett PC as the acting law firm for the Commission. Vice President Henry seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Economic Development Update

Beth Jacobson stated City of Hammond has a bid opening due on February 19, 2013. There is an RFP out for the former Riverpark property, now known as Oxbow Landing. There is approximately 16 acres remaining for development. 5 acres was already sold to a hotel developer approximately a year ago, located in the southeast corner of the property. The property is zoned for commercial use and the City is expecting a variety of proposals from potential offices, retail and restaurants. Secretary Pettersen inquired about the infrastructure and whether the City will offer high speed fiber optics in basic infrastructure. Only water and sewer are available right now. Attorney Nicole Bennett stated, along with Beth Jacobson, that at Oxbow, the potential tenants would develop the land at their own cost, stating if they needed fiber optics, they can provide it themselves. Beth Jacobson stated that the City would treat each incentive request on a case by case basis.

Beth Jacobson also stated on the north end of the city, near the new Walmart at 1100 5th Avenue in Hammond IN, there is a proposal for a large scale retail/restaurant development. The City is working with the developer to assist with this project. It is a national chain type project, seen in other areas of Northwest Indiana.

No more updates.

Public expression

There was no public expression.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Secretary Pettersen to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Ybarra seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Secretary Pettersen wanted the minutes of reflect the welcoming of the Commission to its new member, John Vezmar. The meeting of the Hammond Economic Development Commission adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Approved and signed this _____ day of _____ 2013.

RICHARD BLASTIC, PRESIDENT

CHARLES PETTERSEN, SECRETARY

ANNE ANDERSON, RECORDING SECRETARY