

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
VIRTUAL MEETING – March 18, 2021
7:00pm via Zoom and Call-In

PRESENT: Val Dumais, Mark Chase, Marc Romanow, Tim Maynard, Joseph Klepacki (via phone)

STAFF: Cal Hauburger – Economic Development Coordinator

ABSENT: Nancy Autunno, Helen Bergenty, Robert Berube, Amber Viteri – Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Jacob Rocco – Town Council Liaison

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Val Dumais.

II. Oral Petitions

None.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from December 28th by Joseph Klepacki and was seconded by Mark Chase.

Marc Romanow raised the need to elevate alternate members for this meeting to pass a vote. A motion to elevate alternates Marc Romanow and Tim Maynard by Mark Chase and was seconded by Joseph Klepacki, allowing all present members to vote. **All were in favor, motion passed, and Marc Romanow and Tim Maynard were elevated from alternates for the meeting.**

The motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 28th was brought again by Joseph Klepacki and seconded by Mark Chase.

All were in favor, motion passed, and minutes were approved.

IV. New Business

1. Election of Officers

Val Dumais voiced his desire to once again Chair the EDA. Joseph Klepacki nominated Val Dumais to serve as the Chair for 2021. The motion was seconded by Mark Chase.

All were in favor and the motion passed – Val Dumais will serve as Chair of the EDA for 2021.

A motion and nomination were made by Joseph Klepacki for Nancy Autunno to serve as Vice Chair for the EDA. The motion was seconded by Mark Chase.

All were in favor and the motion passed – Nancy Autunno will serve as Vice Chair of the EDA for 2021.

V. Other Business

1. Discussion of Proposed EDA Revolving Loan Program for 2021

Val Dumais introduced the proposed changes to amend the existing Revolving Loan program for the rest of 2021 making a portion of issued loans up to \$10,000 forgivable if requirements are met – remaining in business and located within Plainville for at least two years from loan issuance. The goal of the loan is to help those existing businesses in Plainville remain open and located in Town as the challenging economic climate resulting from COVID, continues.

A question was raised by Cal Hauburger asking if the EDA wanted the amended program to simply replace the existing loan program or offer it as an additional option for those businesses in Town who meet the criteria. Val Dumais voiced support for keeping it as an option, not a replacement, for the existing loan program stating some firms may be doing well, seek expansion, and don't need to have a portion forgiven. The goal is to retain and assist those businesses who need help, not a handout for those doing well. Those businesses can still access the existing loan program.

Joseph Klepacki asked about the current standing of the EDA Fund. There are two outstanding loans (JDA Sprinklers & Dream Makers – about \$25,000 total left) and all payments are up to date. The fund stands at about \$280,000.

A motion to offer the amended partially Forgivable Revolving Loan Program in addition to the existing Revolving Loan Program was made by Marc Romanow and seconded by Joseph Klepacki. Nancy Autunno also sent in a write-in vote of support of the amended offering.

All were in favor and the motion passed. This will be brought to the Town Council for input and ratification.

A brief discussion occurred among members with updates on the White Oak redevelopment project, new businesses in Town and the latest on the COVID relief bill that was passed and any impact and benefit that could have on local businesses.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mark Chase and seconded by Joseph Klepacki.

All were in favor and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cal Hauburger
Economic Development Coordinator