

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by EDC Chairman Kevin Emerick.

ROLL CALL: EDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Budelman; Jill Craig; Kevin Emerick; Steve Krautscheid; Jim Langstraat; Rick Lafave; Juanita Lint; Alredo Moreno; Mark Nakajima; Rob Langford; Tom Raabe; Javier Urenda; Jonathan Yawson

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Brad Bafaro; Jennifer Prickett; Guy Storms

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT (UNEXCUSED): None

OTHERS PRESENT:

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilor Timothy Rippe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff King, Economic Development Manager; Shannon Reynolds, Admin Assistant

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

None

3. APPROVAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES:

A quorum was met. Tim Budelman moved a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 EDC meeting minutes. Tom Raabe seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

None

5. BUSINESS:

A. Chamber of Commerce Update, Juanita Lint:

Juanita updated the EDC members on recent Chamber of Commerce news. The Corn Roast held last weekend at the Cornelius Cinema was a success. The first downtown Pedestrian Mall was a bit slow as the weather wasn't great and businesses hesitated to put items out. They will hold one more Pedestrian Mall this coming weekend. Per the Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan they have completed the Spanish translation of flyers and documents to be available. They are also in the process of looking for a grant that would possibly fund a translator for meetings and other needs as well.

B. City Council Update, Councilor Rippe:

Councilor Rippe updated the EDC. Forest Grove continues to work through Phase 1 of the pandemic closures. We will not move into the next phase until all three counties (Washington, Clackamas & Multnomah) have met the requirements. Councilor Rippe attended The Westside Economic Alliance forum where the economic forecast for Washington County was reported as not as bad as originally estimated. Business

activity is down 14% from last year mainly from the type of industry it has impacted the most (hospitality & leisure). Congress passed a bill to continue the Transportation Act funds for an additional year. Washington County Chamber of Commerce submission to re-open bowling alleys was denied.

C. Latino Small Business Study, Maribel de Leon, Adelante Mujeres

Maribel de Leon gave a detailed update of the Latino Small Business Study that was completed. The purpose of this study was to determine any barriers the Latino community businesses may encounter when starting a new business in our local area. The study focus was on the communities of Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Tigard. A few findings that were identified was a need for coaching and mentorship, more information on how to navigate the start-up process with licensing and permitting requirements, better language access through translators or translated documents, access to resources and support, and business basics information. Food space, construction, landscaping, childcare, janitorial were the main type of business polled in this study.

D. Latino Study Discussion-Projects, goals & Measures, All

Some discussion was held on ways they can come together as a City to help decrease the cultural and communication barriers. Possible workshops and mentorship ideas were discussed. It was determined a working meeting on this topic in the future would be beneficial.

E. Covid-19 Business Recovery Efforts, All

Jeff updated that the conclusion of the second round of small business grants was approved and checks will be mailed in the next week or so. Total funding for this round was approximately \$177,000. 55 applicants were received with 54 approved and 87% of those applicants being minority owned status. He made mention of the sincere gratitude he has received on behalf of the City from quite a few business.

There is approximately \$50,000 in City funds that remain unspent These funds can be e for continued Forest Grove business grant support otherwise they need to be returned to the County. Staff is working on a few ideas.

The BRC still has plenty of free PPE for any businesses in need. They also have contracts with the Legal Center at Lewis and Clark College to help assist with small business legal issues.

Jeff also mentioned the Forest Grove unemployment statistics from March 2020 at 3.5%. The rate jumped to 11.8% during its highest peak and are currently back down to 6.6% as of August. for the City of Forest Grove.

F. Forest Grove Business Update, Jeff King

Some upcoming projects in Forest Grove:

The former Oregon Roses building on 24th Ave. is now occupied by a flooring company from Beaverton.

A former Merix building, also on 24th Ave was vacant for a short time, but a T-Shirt and Embroidery company is know if the process of purchasing the building.

MGC Pure Chemicals has plans in the next few years to double its capacity as well as possibly move its Hillsboro move its small R&D office out to Forest Grove.

The City has received an early stage lead for a warehouse project serving Intel . The company is considering the TTM site.

Old Trapper has purchased additional land and is considering a new building expansion.

Urban Decanter just finished their amazing remodel and the space looks great. Popeye's Chicken plans to build a new restaurant on Pacific Ave next to Wauna Credit Union.

Good Intentions café/Hollywood building is under purchase for possible new Vietnamese café. Next door, The Vault restaurant has closed and a new Southern brunch and bistro may come in.

6. STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

None

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Kevin Emerick, announced that the next meeting of the EDC will be on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 10:00 am Location TBA.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Kevin Emerick adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by:

Shannon Reynolds
Administrative Specialist
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove EDC:

Date: 11/5/2020