

**HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 1115 BROADWAY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014
12:00 PM**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Industrial Development Commission was called to order at 12:01 PM by Chairman Darell Bellm.

Roll Call

Members present: Chairman Darell Bellm, Vice-Chairman Jon Greve, Eric Rehkemper, Ryan Goodwin, and Ex-Officio Member Jami Jansen.

Members absent: Diane Korte-Lindsey.

Also present: City Manager Mark Latham, Economic Development and Marketing Coordinator Lisa Peck, SIU-E Intern Mallard Hubbard, and Recording Secretary Lana Hediger.

Approval of Minutes

Eric Rehkemper made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2014 Regular Session meeting of the Industrial Development Commission; seconded by Jon Greve. All members voted aye; none voted no; the motion carried.

Reports:

Update on other job inquiries – Mark Latham

Mark reported that we are working with Gateway Cylinders on a potential incentive agreement. They moved here several years ago from Staunton. They are now ready for a half million dollar expansion. They will be bringing in new jobs.

Mark was on the phone this morning with a local industry that is ready for a ¾ million dollar expansion. He cannot name it at this time, but may have more information next month.

The former 4-5-6 building was purchased by Pete Korte for an antique shop. Mr. Korte purchased a lot of antiques from someone in Alton. This will potentially be a tourism draw.

Lisa reported that they met a few months ago with people from Agricel. They are an impressive company, with offices in multiple states that finds industry to come into small towns. Another meeting is scheduled with the President of the company on August 22 in Effingham, where their headquarters is. He is a long-time friend of Ralph Korte's. Mr. Korte and Rob Bowman will be going to that meeting as well. We will be taking a look at some of their projects while we are there. We are trying to get them interested in Highland at this time.

Mark reported that the City is working on a couple of annexation agreements. Madison County has asked that we annex the Park and Ride property. We're also working on an annexation agreement for 5 acres at Iberg and St. Rose Rd which is owned by Highland-Pierron Fire Protection District. Mark is also working with Korte Luitjohan on annexing their property on Highland Road.

Treasurer's Report – Ryan Goodwin

Ryan handed out copies of the bank statement as of July 31, 2014. The balance at the end of June was \$13,196.60. There was a deposit of \$689.43 and \$0.30 interest was paid; making the ending balance \$13,886.03. Eric made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by Jon. All members voted aye; none voted no. The motion carried.

Update on Highland Communication Services – Mark Latham

Mark reported that we now have 1432 customers installed as of July 30. Revenue billed for July was \$134,120.00 which is up from June. HCS is gearing up for construction in Willow Creek beginning Monday. From there it will progress to Faith Countryside and from there all the way to 30th Street this Fall. A meeting is being scheduled with the bankers. We feel like it will benefit the bankers here, so we will tell them about it and see if we can generate any interest. Their IT personnel are also invited. We are working out the marketing details on the Video on Demand and TV Everywhere right now. We are a little more than 3 weeks out on installs. 58 customers signed up within the last month and 60 installs.

Update on Highland Entrepreneurship Program – Lisa Peck

Lisa reported that things are still status quo with the exception of Charlie Dave's graduating the program. They are still welcome to consult with their mentors on an occasional basis but the Small Business Development Center will be handling some of their outstanding issues. Lory Theater is behind on their quarterly meeting and Dandy Dog is on hold. Core Physicians and Lowensteins are still meeting on a regular basis. Darell asked if the school is still interested in the Youth Entrepreneurship program. Lisa indicated that we can pursue and Darell pointed that it needs to begin at the school right around Christmas for it to be successful.

Update on HEP Business Plan Competition – Lisa Peck

Lisa reported that she is still working on the sponsorships. \$8,000 is firmly committed at this time. She has requests out to several of HCS's bigger vendors and those are working their way up the chain right now. Additionally she has asked Mark to make some phone calls to vendors he has worked with.

Update on Enterprise Zone – Lisa Peck

Lisa handed out maps and pointed out that the three foot strip will not really take up any of the allotted area. They would like the application to be submitted with the area at approximately 12 square miles so we have had to scale back from what we initially proposed. There is one area near Highland Road that we are going to add back in, so

we will have to take something else out in order to do that. Lisa will be meeting again with Moran Economic Development to finalize the map after they meet with Madison County because they want all the municipalities' land use so they can be looking at that when they prepare the maps. Highland's original map represented 27% of the total area. We are not the only community that will have to back off on the size. We will need to be able serve the area with utilities and show that we have a long term use plan in place. Eric pointed out that Highland electric does serve as far out as the Highland Country Club. Darell asked if the other communities are as far into this process as Highland is. Lisa indicated that everybody is about the same stage in this. The application has to be submitted by the middle of December. Each community will have to pass an ordinance before the submittal. We do need letters of support for the application. Lisa asked each of the members to provide a letter for which she will provide points to include.

Mark reported that the city is waiting to receive the remodel plans for Ruler Foods. He indicated that there is nothing new to report on an air ambulance firm to build near the hospital. Mark will ask Peggy Sebastian when he meets with her next week to discuss construction of the new road for the public safety facility.

On the subject of institutions of higher education, Mark reported that Chief Bell was in a meeting with the new head of security for Lindenwood University. Highland was listed as one of the areas that will fall under his area of responsibility which makes it sound like it may still be in the works with them.

Mark is still trying to finalize a meeting date with Ranken Technical College. Lisa believes it is important to pursue all avenues at this time.

Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting of the Industrial Development Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2014. Darell and Eric will both be absent for that meeting. Lana will contact Diane to determine if we will have a quorum.

Adjournment

Eric Rehkemper made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ryan Goodwin. All members voted aye; none voted no. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM.