

**HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 1115 BROADWAY
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016
12:00 PM**

Call to Order

The January 6, 2016, meeting of the Industrial Development Commission was called to order at 12:03 PM by Chairman Darell Bellm.

Roll Call

Members present: Chairman Darell Bellm, Vice-Chairman Jon Greve, Eric Rehkemper, Ryan Goodwin and Ex-Officio Member, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Nancie Zobrist.

Members absent: Diane Korte-Lindsey.

Also present: City Manager Latham, Assistant City Manager Lisa Peck, Economic Development Intern Mallord Hubbard, Superintendent of Schools Mike Sutton, and Recording Secretary Lana Hediger.

Approval of Minutes

Eric Rehkemper made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 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 job inquiries – City Manager Latham

City Manager Latham reported that an announcement came out today about the groundbreaking on the heliport on February 9. Mark indicated that it is being reviewed by the Combined Planning and Zoning Board and the building department.

Things are going well with Highland Chiropractic after fire destroyed their building. His site plan review will be addressed at the Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting tonight. Lisa reported that the building will be between 2500 and 3000 square feet. It will be moved over a bit from the position of the original foundation. He will be starting construction as soon as possible.

Mark has had an inquiry about purchasing the building at Main and Laurel. They would like to use the space for a cake decorating business and ice cream shop and rent the upstairs space out. They would like to use the space between that building and the township offices as a drive-through.

There have been inquiries from a few different people purchasing Sammie's.

Mark reported that construction of the dentist office is going well and that the rate of building permit applications is up.

Lisa reported that Kyle Anderson, a lobbyist with the realtors association, has run a report that shows that home sales are up...of 22 home sales, 7 of them have gone through the city's homebuyer assistance program. His report also shows that home sales were up 70% and the days-on-market was down 91%. This mirrors what Diane Lindsay-Korte had said last month. Darell pointed out that there is very little new construction and Lisa concurred.

Update on Highland Communication Services – City Manager Latham

City Manager Latham reported that by the end of this week, we'll be at 1800 customers. We're closing in on approximately \$160,000/month revenue. We have opened the Faith Countryside area. There are about 50 residents out there and there have been a few signups already. The crews are working on getting fiber buried out to 30th Street within the next four to six weeks. Mark indicated that they are trying to get that fiber buried so that they can do the necessary splicing during bad weather.

Update on Highland Entrepreneurship Program – Director Peck

Director Peck reported that everything is basically the same as last month with the exception of one application request. The business person would prefer not to go public with what his business is. He would like to hand-select his mentors.

Update on Workforce Development Initiatives – Director Peck

Director Peck welcomed Superintendent Sutton. Lisa asked him if any coding classes will be offered in the next school year. He hadn't received any confirmation on the funding sources for this. Lisa indicated that the city and the BEA were willing to pay the 1/7th of the teacher's salary and that the IDC supports the idea. Mr. Sutton indicated that he will need to get refocused on this. He is aware that some conversations have taken place with Michelle Heinz, the computer teacher at the high school and that she and Stacy Braun, a guidance counselor had done some work on this, but he is unaware of where they left it. Lisa is afraid that this good idea is going to get traction somewhere else besides Highland. She reported that Alton is offering coding classes in their middle school. Mr. Sutton confirmed that they are doing the same program in the Highland Middle School. She found an article on the Leadership Council's Good News webpage about Alton's program. Lisa made the point that Highland should be on the cutting edge of this coding effort.

She will be talking to a gentleman who runs a private junior code academy in Belleville and O'Fallon. She would like to see them have a satellite code academy in Highland. Edwardsville, Hillsboro and Carrollton showed up as communities that are already involved with this.

Mr. Sutton will reconvene a committee to get this set up by next school year. Lisa would also like to see this in the co-op program as well as getting this started in the lower grades to pique the interest of the kids.

Mr. Sutton offered the school facilities for an after-school group to meet. Identifying a person with the passion who is willing to work with kids is who is needed to lead the

program. The curriculum would come from code.org. The leader will need to pass a background check but they do not need to have a teaching degree.

There was some discussion regarding how to begin offering coding as a high school elective. Mr. Sutton will talk to Chris Durbin about possibly including it in the Project Lead the Way engineering program.

Darell asked about progress with Lindenwood University. Lisa reported that the president's assistant will be contacting her to set up a time for a phone call.

SWIC will be offering English 101 and 102 at one of the Highland schools. SWIC has contacted Paul Ray Capelle for a refinishing class. A sign language class will be held at the library beginning in February. Mike Sutton indicated that he had recently received an e-mail from SWIC saying that there wasn't enough enrollment for them to proceed with the English 101, English 102 and the Speech class.

Treasurer's Report

A review of the statement of the IDC bank account at First-Mid Illinois Bank indicated the balance as of November 30, was \$24,233.74. Two deposits were made, December 2 and December 11, each for \$689.43. The total balance in the account as of year-end was \$25,612.60.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Industrial Development Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

Adjournment

Jon Greve made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commission member Eric Rehkemper. All members voted aye; none voted no. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM.