

**HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 1115 BROADWAY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
12:00 PM**

Call to Order

The February 3, 2016, meeting of the Industrial Development Commission was called to order at 12:05 PM by Chairman Darell Bellm.

Roll Call

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

Members absent: Ryan Goodwin.

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 January 6, 2016 Regular Session meeting of the Industrial Development Commission; seconded by Jon Greve. All members voted aye; none voted no; the motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report

A review of the statement of the IDC bank account at First-Mid Illinois Bank indicated the balance as of the end of 2015, was \$25,612.60. One deposit was made on January 15 of \$689.43. The total balance in the account as of January 29, 2016 was \$26,302.03.

Diane Korte-Lindsay made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as provided; seconded by Eric Rehkemper. All members voted aye; none voted no; the motion carried.

Update on job inquiries – City Manager Latham

City Manager Latham reported that the new Meineke car shop has some walls up. They will be bringing five jobs for that site. One of those will be a management position.

Walls are also going up at the Highland Chiropractic Center on Walnut Street.

Ribbon cutting for the heliport at the hospital will be February 9 at 11:00 a.m. Their bldg. permit is approved and they are ready to go.

Scheffel-Boyle has hired four people and their addition is looking really good. They should have their final inspection by the end of

Plaza Dental is progressing well. They have their roof on and are moving well on that.

Mark spoke to Kevin Hemann about the BEA and coding classes. He indicated that there is a business across the street, in the old Lager Monuments building, that makes chair lifts. Mark hopes to have an update on them by the next IDC meeting.

Quite a bit of activity taking place that Mark hopes to be able to share next month.

Update on Highland Communication Services – City Manager Latham

City Manager Latham reported that HCS has surpassed 1800 customers. The Faith Countryside area has been opened and their take-rates are very good. They are still working on putting the fiber underground between 26th and 30th Streets. Mark believes that the fiber infrastructure in that area will be all done within the next six weeks. Then they're moving north.

Eric asked if there are any builders getting active? Mark indicated that there are only custom home builders right now. Nobody building spec homes. There are very few lots platted that have utilities.

Diane indicated that lots in Prairie Trails would sell if they would install the infrastructure. She asked if anybody had expressed any interest in building residential along the Veterans Honor Parkway. Lisa thinks the mixed-use development that was intended for the area around the proposed I-70 interchange at IL State Route 160 would work, with some design guidelines for cohesiveness, along Troxler between US Hwy 40 and IL State Route 143 after the Cally Lane extension is complete. There would be room for single-family, limited multi-family and retail, creating a village within the community. Diane agreed.

Eric asked if the success with the home-buyer assistance program was continuing. Lisa reported that it is. There are three more homes getting ready to close that will be utilizing the home buyer program. That will bring the number to 10. Last year 22 homes sold in Highland and seven of those had utilized the program. Diane indicated that a lot of the realtors still don't understand the program.

Update on Highland Entrepreneurship Program – Asst. City Manager Peck

Assistant City Manager Peck reported that there is no activity and would like to remove this from future agendas until there is something to report. Lisa will be meeting with some of the local banks. They are a source of referrals. John reported that there just haven't been very many requests. The requests that have come in don't really fit the mold of a start-up or an expansion. Lisa speculated that an improved economy could have something to do with the decrease in requests.

Update on Workforce Development Initiatives – Asst. City Manager Peck

Assistant City Manager Peck welcomed Mike Sutton, Superintendent of Schools again. He reported that there may be 7–9 new teachers moving to Highland next year. There will be a new class offered next year, Computer Science and Software Engineering as part of the Project Lead the Way program (PLTW). A large portion of that class will be geared specifically towards coding. But because of the rigor behind the PLTW program,

HHS is required to send their teachers to be trained by the PLTW program, with a pretty significant cost. He anticipates sending two instructors to the training this summer. We will offer one new class in PLTW starting in August this year. There will also be the one computer science class, already being taught, that they will be upping the rigor on. Two teachers have been identified, pending approval. Because the PLTW class will be heavy in math, it will likely have a prerequisite of at least Algebra I. The other class will be run through the vocational program.

Costs of the required teacher training is broken down as follows for two instructors to be sent to Champaign for a 14 day training course, with hotel stay:

\$4,200Tuition at \$2,100 per teacher
\$5,100 <u>Accommodations and meals at \$2,550 per teacher</u>
\$9,300 Total cost for training

In order to offer the program, the lab will need to be updated with new technology at about \$7,000. A teacher to teach an extra course will cost about \$9,000. Total for the first year is \$25,300. Mr. Sutton is estimating \$10,000 per year (teacher's salary), ongoing costs, for years two, three and four. Mr. Sutton is hoping to get a commitment from the city, the HACF or the BEA for \$10,000 per year for the first four years. If the school receives this commitment, they will cover the costs for training and lab updates. He hopes to be able to bring this to the school board at their February meeting. Students will be offered the course and encouraged to contact their counselor to change their schedules for next school year.

Darell encouraged Mr. Sutton to look into having some sort of agreement with the instructors that they remain with the Highland School District for 4 -5 years after obtaining the training.

Diane Korte-Lindsay made a motion for the IDC to recommend to the City Council that we donate \$1,000 per year for four years for the Project Lead the Way coding course; seconded by Eric Rehkemper. All members voted aye; none voted no; the motion carried.

Mr. Sutton will forward the course outline to Jon Greve for use in securing additional sponsors. The school district's website has a link to the BEA. Mark suggested that the school apply for a grant through the foundation for this project.

The vocational course will be one semester. The PLTW course will be for one full year.

Discussion Regarding Business Retention

There was a brief discussion about Lisa's desire to find a way to reactivate and/or reenergize the manufacturer's association to find future community leaders. Chairman Bellm suggested having one industry representative at each of the next few IDC meetings to educate us on what they do and what the city may be able to do for them.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Industrial Development Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Adjournment

Eric Rehkemper made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Diane Korte-Lindsay. All members voted aye; none voted no. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.