

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee Meeting

Thursday September 24, 2020

4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting

Council Members

Chair Jeremy Nutting
Co-Chair Traci Buxton
Mayor Matt Pina

City Staff

Michael Matthias – City Manager (CM)
Dan Brewer – Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Susan Cezar – Chief Strategic Officer (CSO)
Beth Anne Wroe – Finance Director
Denise Lathrop – Planning & Development Svcs Manager
Tim George – City Attorney
Scott Wilkins - Harbormaster
Eric Lane – Planner II
Jodi Grager – Community Development Assistant

Guests: Councilmembers Matt Mahoney and J.C.Harris

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the July 16, 2020 Minutes

Minutes approved as submitted.

3. G.R.O. (Business Assistances) Program Update

City Manager Michael Matthias began by requesting the Committee's approval to give a brief overview of the G.R.O Program at this meeting and a more thorough presentation of this topic to be presented at tonight's Council Meeting, The Committee approved. CM Matthias summarized the G.R.O. program. The Federal Government provided local municipalities with funding to combat the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has used the CARES Act funding (about 1.4 million) in various efforts to assist citizens and businesses and preserve the City budget. (See Agenda Item #3 Attachment). The G.R.O. Program is specifically aimed at assisting local businesses by providing grants for Adaption/Remodel of their physical space or in General Relief grants that support other business needs not to include replacing lost revenue. Eric Lane, Planner II described the process of developing the G.R.O. program. Staff studied how other nearby municipalities provided assistance to their businesses. Through this review, it was discovered it was vital to establish grants that provided enough money to make a difference and not be limited to a maximum of \$1200 to \$1500 per business. The City connected with Rich Shockley, Executive Director Small Business Development Center at Highline College to assist with referring business owners to this program. The program was advertised through various published notices and social media sites. The great news is that all businesses that applied for G.R.O. grants were awarded funds. More specifics regarding the businesses and amounts awarded will be forthcoming once the data has been compiled.

Business owners have been extremely appreciative of this opportunity. The Committee members responded with enthusiasm for the work of staff and look forward to hearing more details at tonight's Council Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21st.

Adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jodi Grager, Public Works Administrative Assistant