

MINUTES

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Thursday September 28, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Council Chamber**

Council Members

Jeremy Nutting, Chair
Vic Pennington, Vice Chair
Traci Buxton

City Staff

Michael Matthias – City Manager (CM)
Matt Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney
Taria Keane – City Clerk
Sara Lee – Public Disclosure Analyst
Jodi Grager – Admin Asst II

Guests: Councilmember Gene Achziger and Mayor Matt Mahoney
Chuck Coleman, Peter Philips

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Approval of 06.22.2023 Minutes

Minutes approved as submitted.

2. Navier Boat/Hydrofoil

City Manager Matthias introduced Consultant Peter Philips and discussed the Navier Electric Hydrofoil demonstration planned for next week, Wednesday October 4th at the Marina. He described the electrification of ferries as a possibility in the City's multi-modal transportation enhancement efforts for this community. CM Matthias recapped the 2022 Pilot Project with the fast ferry, *Chilkat Express*. The project exceeded expectations and the council requested staff to review a possible expansion to the service. The original fast ferry that was used last year was unavailable since the owner decided to sell it. The planned 2023 ferry service was cancelled due to a mechanical failure of the newly contracted boat and an adequate replacement wasn't located by the ferry owner. The Navier Company is a Bay Area Start-Up that recognized the City is working towards innovation regarding passenger ferry transportation options. Although the right size vessel for passenger service has not been built yet, the technology is similar to their current electric hydrofoil boats. The demonstration will use a six-passenger prototype. The previous experience with a passenger ferry has prepared the City for this opportunity to partner with the Navier Company. CM Matthias stated that Metro leaders are visiting the Marina soon to review the possibility of creating a re-charge area for their electric buses. He concluded that Des Moines is situated to become one of the first cities to move to providing electrification of public transportation.

Adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Jodi Grager, Public Works Administrative Assistant