

## MINUTES

**Economic Development Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 27, 2025  
5:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.  
Council Chamber**

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### **Council Members**

Jeremy Nutting, Chair  
Dep Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Vice Chair  
Mayor Traci Buxton

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### **City Staff**

Katherine Caffrey – City Manager  
Rebecca Deming – Community  
Development Director  
Mike Slevin – Public Works Director  
Tim George – City Attorney  
Dan Hopp – Building Official  
Matt Hutchins – Assistant Attorney  
Taria Keane – City Clerk  
Laura Hopp – Admin Coordinator I  
Jodi Grager – Admin Coordinator I

Guests: Councilmembers Gene Achziger and Matt Mahoney  
Dan Wahlstrom and Mason Watt

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### **1. Approval of January 23, 2025 Minutes**

Minutes approved as submitted.

#### **2. Frontage Treatments Presentation**

Mayor Buxton introduced Mason Watt, M4 Enterprises LLC. Mr. Watt proposed a pilot project which incorporates visual screens in front of unused downtown Des Moines properties. He suggested these screens would provide a more unified streetscape visual. Mr. Watt thanked Studio – iva murphy for the renderings that were included in the presentation. Mr. Watt believes that the initial prototype using volunteers and donated materials could be built for \$15,000. The committee discussion included:

- Plans, permits, maintenance, costs
- Public safety
- Potential business interests
- Timeline

Chair Nutting requested City Manager and Mayor provide a letter that Mr. Watt could use as he continues the research and planning necessary to proceed. Chair Nutting invited Mr. Watt to return to this committee to present additional details for further consideration.

#### **3. Woodmont Development Agreement**

Rebecca Deming, Community Development Director stated staff are

preparing a Woodmont Development Agreement for a mixed use project with the potential for 7500 sq ft of commercial frontage along Pacific Highway South. Currently, the Des Moines Municipal Code requires Development Agreements (DA) and the Planned Unit Development (PUD) receive City Council Approval. Staff proposed that the DA first come to Council, then the Planned Unit Development be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner. Director Deming added that requirements can be added to the DA per Council request. The DA would need to receive Council approval. The Committee supported this change.

#### **4. Sound Code Discussion**

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

Adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Jodi Grager, Public Works Administrative Coordinator