

**REGULAR MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY OF OAKDALE
February 3, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Oakdale was held virtually on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels called the meeting to order at 5:15p.m. The opportunity was provided for the EDC, staff and the public to participate via Zoom or by telephone in response to the City of Oakdale's Local Emergency Response to COVID-19. As such, all motions were done by roll call.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present via Zoom meeting.

Commissioners: David Lewis
 Robert Stiglich
 Scott Oechsner
 Bill Burns
 Frank Orsello
 Gary Livingston
 Dave Halper
 Stacie Penn
 Mark Landis

Absent: Holly Koep

Also Present: Linnea Graffunder-Bartels, Senior Community Development Specialist
 Colleen Swedberg, City Council Liaison
 Alyssa MacLeod, Communication Specialist

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PENN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019.

VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED

Commissioner Lewis Aye
Commissioner Stiglich Aye
Commissioner Orsello Aye
Commissioner Oechsner Aye

Commissioner Burns	Aye	
Commissioner Livingston	Aye	
Commissioner Halper	Aye	
Commissioner Penn	Aye	
Ayes	8	Abstain 1 (Mark Landis)
Nays	0	Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels opened nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Commissioner Orsello and Commissioner Lewis to nominate Commissioner Bill Burns for position of Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns to nominate Commission Scott Oechsner for position of Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Halper to nominate Commissioner Mark Landis for position of Chairperson.

Commissioner Burns noted that he would only like the position of Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis to nominate Commissioner Frank Orsello for position of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Orsello respectfully declined but nomination still stands.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis to nominate Commissioner Bill Burns for position of Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Commissioner Orsello and seconded by Commissioner Oechsner, to close nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Orsello rescinded his motion to nominate Commissioner Bill Burns for position of Chair.

Commissioner Lewis rescinded his motion to nominate Commissioner Frank Orsello for position of Vice Chair.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels called for a roll call vote for to elect Commissioner Scott Oechsner for position of Chair.

VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED

Commissioner Lewis	Aye		
Commissioner Stiglich	Nay		
Commissioner Oechsner	Nay		
Commissioner Orsello	Nay		
Commissioner Burns	Aye		
Commissioner Livingston	Nay		
Commissioner Halper	Nay		
Commissioner Penn	Aye		
Ayes	3	Abstain	1 (Mark Landis)
Nays	5		

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels called for a roll call vote for to elect Commissioner Mark Landis for position of Chair.

VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED

Commissioner Lewis	Nay		
Commissioner Stiglich	Aye		
Commissioner Oechsner	Aye		
Commissioner Orsello	Aye		
Commissioner Burns	Nay		
Commissioner Livingston	Aye		
Commissioner Halper	Aye		
Commissioner Penn	Nay		
Ayes	5	Abstain	1 (Mark Landis)
Nays	3		

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels called for a roll call vote for to elect Commissioner Bill Burns for position of Vice Chair.

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VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED

Commissioner Lewis Aye

Commissioner Stiglich Aye

Commissioner Oechsner Aye

Commissioner Orsello Aye

Commissioner Livingston Aye

Commissioner Halper Aye

Commissioner Penn Aye

Commissioner Landis Aye

Ayes 8 Abstain 1 (Bill Burns)

Nays 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Halper and seconded by Commissioner Burns, to elect Commissioner Mark Landis as Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission for a period of one (1) calendar year, commencing with the February 3, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Halper and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to elect Commissioner Bill Burns as Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission for a period of one (1) calendar year commencing with the February 3, 2021 meeting.

VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED FOR BOTH MOTIONS

Commissioner Lewis Aye

Commissioner Stiglich Aye

Commissioner Oechsner Aye

Commissioner Orsello Aye

Commissioner Burns Aye

Commissioner Livingston Aye

Commissioner Halper Aye

Commissioner Penn Aye

Commissioner Landis Aye

Ayes 9 Abstain 0

Nays 0 Motion Carried

COVID RECOVERY BUSINESS RESOURCES OVERVIEW

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels provided a summary of the economic effects of the pandemic including the financial assistance provided to businesses by Federal, State, County and City levels.

In response to Vice Chair Burns' question regarding how many businesses are in Oakdale, Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied there are about 650 businesses. Vice Chair Burns expressed his regret that only 184 businesses applied for the Paycheck Protection Program when help was available.

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels noted that approximately 65 businesses closed due to executive orders and remained closed after initial quarantine period. She believes approximately 35 of those businesses did not receive any assistance during closure.

Chair Landis asked if those businesses didn't apply for assistance because they didn't know it was available. Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied that she worked closely with Alyssa MacLeod distributing information regarding city and county programs via email, phone calls, and social media.

Chair Landis asked what the plan is going forward to attract and retain businesses and Ms. Graffunder-Bartels noted that the BRT areas are generating interest and occasionally Oakdale is contacted for retail space.

In response to Commissioner Penn's question about how many businesses permanently closed, Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied the largest business would be the New Vision Theater as well as Dart Escape. Both businesses had been struggling for a while before the pandemic.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Lewis stated he attended the Urban Wok Grand Opening and really enjoyed it.

Chair Burns noted it's a great restaurant but encouraged visiting restaurants that have been here a while also.

Commissioner Livingston retired last year. He also wanted to thank the City of Oakdale for the gift card at Christmas. It was very thoughtful.

Commissioner Halper has been enjoying HyVee takeout meals.

Commissioner Orsello mentioned that his business took a hit during the pandemic. He lost about 50% of his businesses but things are picking up lately. He is reducing his hours and looking to retire soon.

Commissioner Stiglich is not working much but doing well.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Ms. Graffunder-Bartels provided a summary of the following development projects:

Willowbrook. Phase One (south of 40th and west of Ideal) has been approved and Lennar Homes will begin development this summer with utilities and streets beginning in spring. Information regarding development is on city website. Contact Lennar Homes via email or call for information regarding home purchase.

Helmo Station. Bethesda Cornerstone Village is in planning stages for a 70 unit apartment building that will include both market rate and affordable living spaces. 10% of their units will be set aside for persons with intellectual and development disabilities. They have a program that supports community living in their apartment buildings.

Greenway Station. Generating interest from developers for multi-family housing.

4Front Campus. Modifying master plan to expand in undeveloped areas. Current plans are for 300,000' of industrial development west of existing buildings.

In response to Commissioner Landis' question if Slumberland will use that land for warehouse, Ms. Graffunder-Bartels replied that was the original plan but believes this will not be for Slumberland.

Tanners Lake. Working with developer for boutique hotel and restaurant but doesn't look like plans will be realized.

Local Sales Tax. City Council proposed a local sales tax to support police department and public works construction. The legislature did not act on this matter last year. Council will pursue again this year and have directed staff to submit a request to the state legislature for consideration for the half cent sales tax for 25 years.

Councilperson Swedberg mentioned that a lobbyist has been hired by the city.

Oakdale COVID Recovery Loan Program. Seven loans have been made with one in the process. Business who have benefitted from recovery loans are Brothers Event Center, Ugly Putters, Sgt. Peppers, Premier Pizza, Anytime Fitness and Luxury Hair Bar. The loan in process is a second loan to Premier Pizza. Council recently amended the program to allow businesses to apply for a second loan if necessary. Businesses submit receipts for eligible expenses for reimbursement from the loan fund.

MNDEED Trends Online Publication. They no long publish the magazine but is available online.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2021 at 5:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LEWIS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ORSELLO TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018 AT 5:58 PM.

VERBAL VOTE FOLLOWED

Commissioner Lewis	Aye
Commissioner Stiglich	Aye
Commissioner Oechsner	Aye
Commissioner Orsello	Aye
Commissioner Burns	Aye
Commissioner Livingston	Aye
Commissioner Halper	Aye
Commissioner Penn	Aye
Commissioner Landis	Aye

Ayes	9	Abstain	0
Nays	0	Motion Carried	

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Buhl, Customer Service Specialist