

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
December 16, 2008
City of Waverly Council Chambers
7:00 a.m.

A. Call to Order:

1. Members Present: Jean Keller, Chairperson
 Terry Van Laningham, Vice-Chairperson
 Gary Bogenreif
 Gene Leonhart
 Patsy Reed
 Rick Schneider

Members Absent: Dave Stevenson
 Jim Willis
 Larry Young

City Officials Present: Jason Passmore, Economic Development Director
 Connie Tolan, Economic Development Office Manager
 Fred Ribich, City Council Liaison

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion By: Terry Van Laningham Seconded By: Dave Bogenreif

Move that the agenda be approved as printed.

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 3

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Motion By: Gene Leonhart Seconded By: Patsy Reed

Move that the minutes of the November 11, 2008, Economic Development Commission meeting be approved.

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 3

B. Regular Business:

1. Discuss and Review Economic Development Plan and Strategy

- The Commission worked on the development of an outline for an Economic Development Strategic Plan. Points of discussion centered on target markets, primary objectives, rail service, and marketing. Further discussion and development will take place at the next meeting, and a facilitator will be brought in, perhaps in February, to lead the development of the formal plan.

Examples of mission and vision statements will be e-mailed to the Commission prior to the next meeting to stimulate thought and discussion.

2. Update on Current Status of Economic Development Projects

- Site Visit Follow Up - In July 2008, a foundry operation that manufactures bases for wind turbine towers visited a number of sites in Iowa, including Waverly. Director Passmore had the opportunity to speak to the owner of that business at the AWEA Wind Energy Workshop in Cleveland and was told that no sites have been eliminated at this time. Mr. Passmore will explore an opportunity to visit the company's existing plant.
- GMT Update – Director Passmore has been working with GMT and their architect on possible expansion plans at their Waverly location. They had discussed the possibility of City assistance in the form of tax rebatement or infrastructure development. He received a letter from GMT last Friday stating that they have decided to lease the vacant Winnebago Industries facility in Charles City rather than to expand their Waverly facility at this time. They were recently awarded two new projects that require them to be in production by first quarter 2009, so the tight timeline was one factor. They also noted the financial benefit of leasing as compared to building at this time and stated that this will not impact their current Waverly or Nashua operations.

3. Regional Economic Development Information

- Director Passmore reported on the AWEA Wind Energy Workshop he attended in Cleveland, OH, December 8-9. Wind energy supply chain businesses were the primary audience, and it was a sold out event with total attendance of 830. Several Iowa regional groups went together and hosted an Iowa Reception the evening of December 8th, and attendance exceeded expectations with 125 attending. A few Iowa business representatives who were in attendance spoke briefly at the reception about doing business in Iowa, including Jim Carnegie of United Equipment Accessories in Waverly and also a representative of X-L Trailers in Oelwein and Manchester.

C. Old Business:

- New Business at 2400 East Bremer Avenue – The business formerly occupied by Roeder Trailers has been purchased by Glass and Window Works, LLC.

D. New Business:

- 2009 Meeting Schedule – The schedule of 2009 meeting dates was distributed.

E. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2009, at 7:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

F. Adjournment:

Motion By: Terry Van Laningham Seconded By: Gene Leonhart

That the Economic Development Commission meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 3