## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES July 11, 2017 Waverly City Hall – Council Chambers 7:00 a.m.

## A. Call to Order

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1. Voting Members Present:	Steve Egli, Vice Chairperson Brittney Diercks Gary Grace Mark Hanawalt Gene Lieb Tammy McKenzie Ann Rathe
Voting Members Absent:	Deb Schroeder, Chairperson Troy Miller
Non-Voting Partners Present:	Chuck Infelt, Mayor Dan McKenzie, City Council Liaison Heidi Solheim, Waverly Health Center Darrel Wenzel, Waverly Utilities
Non-Voting Partners Absent:	Linda Allen, Hawkeye Community College Jim Atty, Waverly Health Center Darrel Colson, Wartburg Ed Klamfoth, W-SR Schools Travis Toliver, Waverly Chamber
Staff Present:	James Bronner, City Administrator Connie Tolan, Economic Development Specialist Bill Werger, Economic Development Director

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion By:LiebSeconded By:RatheMove that the agenda be approved as printed.Yes:7No:0Absent:2

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Motion By:HanawaltSeconded By: DiercksMove that the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Economic Development Commission Meeting be<br/>approved.Yes: 7No:0Absent: 2

## B. Regular Business

- 1. Reports
  - i. Bill Werger

Werger discussed the trip he took with the Cedar Valley Coalition to Washington DC to meet and present to legislative members and their staff. The Coalition prepares a briefing book about the Cedar Valley that is used as a basis for the presentations. The Governor's office was asked for potential infrastructure projects in their states. The Cedar Valley was

well-represented by mayors, council members and staff. He had the opportunity to engage in good discussions with counterparts in Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Both Senators and Representative Blum and their respective staffs made appearances during the day and at the reception. There were very good opportunities to discuss issues with all.

Werger handed out the building permit comparison that now includes the 2016-2017 fiscal year to compare to previous years.

ii. Mark Hanawalt

The Governor stopped by UEA for a quick visit. The discussion mainly revolved around jobs and jobs training. Iowa has good jobs and education systems; we just don't have the people. People who go to small Iowa colleges tend to stay in Iowa, so it would be nice to see what can be done about possible Iowa tuition grants or other incentives to keep graduates in Iowa. We need to find ways to get people to stay in Iowa and those who have left to come back.

iii. Connie Tolan

Tolan discussed the Select USA Direct Foreign Investment Summit she attended in Washington DC as a representative of the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership. Tolan attended along with Lisa Skubal and Jeff Kolb, also members of the CVRP. The trade show, put on by the US Department of Commerce, focused on foreign companies that are looking to bring their business to the United States. This is a show that they will look to attending in the future.

Two state leads have come through in the past month. Waverly was not able to respond to the leads as Waverly does not have the land available, but other counties within the CVRP were able to respond to the leads.

Waverly Area Development Fund approved a loan request last month for a Waverly business.

- iv. Tammy McKenzie mentioned that the housing market is slow right now. The number of listings are up, but people just aren't buying especially around the \$150,000 range.
- v. Darrel Wenzel mentioned that with all the storms Waverly Utilities customers did not lose signal.
- 2. Discussion of a housing rehabilitation grant program for areas coming out of the flood plain

Werger would like to look at doing a grant program with INRCOG to use toward the homes that are coming out of the flood plain once the maps are revised this fall. Certain homes or neighborhoods may be looked at for the grant. If you are willing to help with this application, please contact Bill.

3. Discussion of the process for downtown façade grant program

Werger would like to start the discussion on the process to apply for a grant for downtown façades. During the next year, we need to see what businesses owners are in support of the project. We will be working closely with the Chamber on this initiative. If you are willing to help, please contact Bill.

C. Mayor's Roundtable Discussion

Will be discussed at the meeting next month.

D. Old Business

None

## E. New Business

None

F. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. in the Civic Center at Waverly City Hall.

G. Adjournment

The Economic Development Commission meeting was adjourned.