

Minutes

Economic Development Commission

January 23, 2023

A meeting was held by the Economic Development Commission on January 23, 2023 at 7:00pm. Attended by Burgess Chad Weddle, Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey, Commission members Linda Morgan, Bob McNally, LeAnne Tennant, Ryan Csajko and 6 members from the public were present.

1. Approving of minutes from December 19, 2022
 - Ryan motioned, LeAnne seconded. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0
2. New appointment from the Town Commissioners to replace Michael Bailey
 - Linda asked Burgess Chad Weddle is there a plan on a new liaison? Burgess Chad Weddle stated he plans on waiting until the 2 new Commissioners appointed after election and anticipates by March meeting, we will have a liaison.
3. Report from Planning regarding the Food Pro application and any other business inquiries
 - Linda recapped the Food Pro Town Meeting; Food Pro is interested in moving to Walkersville, the meeting held was informational only, they have not applied yet, suggested EDC to stay informed with this interest.
 - 1 member of the public expressed his concern that Food Pro will turn Walkersville into an industrial park, he expressed the number of trucks that will be traveling Walkersville roads.
 - Another member expressed concern for public safety and the roads will not support the tractor trailer truck traffic
 - Another member expressed concern that the operation is 24-7 around the clock
4. ARPA Funding – Report back from Commissioners process
 - Feb 8th Burgess and Commissioners meeting will discuss ARPA and those nonprofits will have an opportunity to attend the meeting per Burgess Chad Weddle
5. ARPA Funding – Roll out For Profit business application
 - Burgess Chad Weddle suggested to address Church prior to for-profit businesses since we didn't have many businesses attend our open discussions
 - Linda asked if the Churches would follow the same ARPA process that nonprofits followed, and Burgess Chad Weddle said yes with a little less requirement our board would ask due to the lack of funding raising
6. Springfest – Discussion regarding re-scheduling into Fall 2023 or Spring 2024
 - All members agreed hosting Springfest in Spring of 2024

7. Outreach – EDC meetings with businesses with the top 3 of these suggested groupings: largest employer, longest in town businesses, businesses established during Covid, New business in the past 12 months or 2022.
 - Linda asked Ashley if we could get information on the businesses in Walkersville's based on the types
 - LeAnne suggested to come to the March meeting with days available to visit businesses
 - Bob asked if we can sit down with the vacant building owner in the Safeway shopping center. Linda stated that there is movement with the owner from the meeting EDC had with Tony C.
 - Ryan asked if we could have a playbook for talking points. Linda has reached out to OED and will follow up with Jody for that information
 - Ryan reminded the group that EDC will be adding 2 members to the EDC, all has agreed to put something out to the public, Burgess Chad Weddle stated that EDC will review applicants at February meeting for comments, and Burgess/Commissioners will have the final say
 - One of the members asked about the bank and Marsala's and how it's an eye sore
 - Linda stated that she would reach out to invite Mr. Tomaricho to one of our meetings or meet at his place to understand more about the vacant buildings