

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Place: The Economic Development Committee met on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Board Room at City Hall, 407 Grant Street, Wausau

ED Members Present: Romey Wagner, Tom Neal (VC), Dave Oberbeck and Lisa Rasmussen

Others Present: Mayor Jim Tipple, Ann Werth, Anne Jacobson and Travis Lepinski

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Stats., notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner.

CALL TO ORDER

Neal noted there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 4:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

No public comments were made.

DISCUSSION OF 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Werth stated that for the last few years we have made multiple attempts to get together and do a new strategic plan for economic development. A new plan would give us up-to-date direction to move forward and determine our focus. Scheduling conflicts have caused them all to be cancelled.

Oberbeck said just schedule a time and whoever shows up shows up. He wanted to set goals in 2015 to help find a way to generate one million dollars in extra taxes because of the budget short falls. He felt we need more livable wage jobs, not thirty thousand dollar a year jobs, so more money comes into the community. Further, he felt that we need to set our goal for \$150,000,000 in additional value.

Neal felt that we need to sell some selected city owned property to get it back on the tax role.

Werth and Rasmussen informed the committee of a meeting on January 13, 2015, to review City owned properties.

Rasmussen said that if we set a goal of generating one million dollars in extra taxes in 2015, we should monitor how the outcome is going in July to see if there is any changes that should be made to achieve the goal.

Werth said these goals might be unrealistic with the vacant position of the Economic Development Manager.

Neal said we should get a firm to market the city to attract new business and add in growth.

Rasmussen asked Myla in Human Resources to look at that position and see if we can hire someone with lots of experience. Maybe we are under paying the position and that's why no one with lots of experience came forward with the past job opening.

Rasmussen left the meeting at 5:42

ADJOURN

Oberbeck motioned to adjourn. Wagner seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tom Neal, Vice Chairperson