

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Friday, June 30, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Fire Department Headquarters

Members Present: Chairman Rick Buckner, Councilmember Mark Phillips, Ron Henderson, Joe Bagwell, Angela Gordon, Rob Sanchez.

Members Absent: Dean Infinger

Staff Present: City Administrator Jake Broom; Public Information Officer Frank Johnson; Economic Development Director Matt Brady; GIS Coordinator Craig Linn

Press Present:

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

Mr. Buckner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes—March 2017

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Phillips seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of new Economic Development Incentives Ordinance

Mr. Brady gave an overview of the proposed incentive ordinance. In short, the ordinance allows the City to offer certain rebates for specific categories of businesses if they meet a certain threshold. He unveiled the new incentive zones map.

Mr. Broom mentioned that the new ordinance is modeled after other municipalities that had seen success using it; the incentives are not an entitlement, but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Buckner asked for an example of a success story, and Mr. Broom talked about Hartsville, SC's recent success.

Several suggestions for additions to the ordinance were made – including adding property acquisition and specifying full-service restaurants.

Mr. Henderson moved to approve recommendation of the ordinance to council with changes, and Mr. Sanchez seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion of existing business survey

Mr. Brady reviewed a proposed existing business survey. The goal will be to gauge how the City is doing from a business standpoint and make any changes based on that data. EDAC members offered several suggestions, including a request that the survey be short and not time-consuming to fill out. Mr. Henderson moved to approve the survey and Ms. Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the EDAC data sheet: Mr. Broom mentioned the EDAC data sheet present in the packet without further comment.

V. Chairman's Time

Mr. Buckner mentioned the incentive ordinance was a good first step in promoting the City. It could also be a first step toward creating an economic development corporation.

Mr. Sanchez mentioned that certain municipalities in Texas have had success with incentive ordinances. Specifically, he mentioned Roanoke, TX.

VI. Adjournment

Hearing no other business, Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Henderson seconded. The motion passed 6 – 0 and the committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes approved and adopted:

Rick Buckner, Chair

Date