

Council Economic Development Committee

2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall

May 2, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Members:

Council member White
Council member Gutiérrez
Council member Cousens

Staff:

Sara Watkins, Assistant City Attorney
Rob Peterson, Airport Director
Cally Price, Assistant to the City Manager

Others:

Jonathan Smith
Andrew Holt
Joe Mann
Connie Upton

Executive Minutes

White called the meeting to order.

1. Review draft minutes from February 28, 2019 meeting:

The February 28, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Gutiérrez motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Cousens seconded. Motion passed.

2. Discussions:

- a. Downtown destination – Watkins provided an update on the vacant building ordinance that committee members discussed. Items that could be included in the ordinance include, no boarded up buildings in the Central Business District, active marketing efforts for selling vacant sites, assessing fees for vacant buildings, decreasing the time of vacancy, etc. Gutiérrez motioned to move the vacant building discussion to the full Council and Cousens seconded the motion. Motion passed. White asked that the vacant building ordinance be a standing item on the agenda. Watkins suggested that staff and committee members work with DAY and YCDA.
- b. Economic Development Plan
 - i. Competitiveness
 1. Private sites – Smith reported that vacant sites are listed on YCDA's website. The SIED Board approved funds for expanding the GIS capabilities on YCDA's website. Committee members suggested that the City work with YCDA to enhance what the city offers. Gutiérrez stated that we need to ensure that large businesses looking at expanding are not bringing pollution.
 2. City sites – This item was covered above.

3. Mill site – Watkins reported that the full Council will be receiving an update at the May 28th City Council agenda preview meeting.
4. Public Port Authority – Peterson reported on the luncheon that the Chamber hosted and gave background information on when the City had tried to establish a Port District in the past. The Chamber of Commerce will be forming an exploratory committee and invited Peterson to be a member. Cousens stated she believes Peterson would be an asset to the exploratory committee. Gutiérrez asked if there was any interest from municipalities. Peterson replied that Union Gap was the only municipality that provided funding to assist with airport marketing efforts.
5. Incentives – Peterson reported that the Council can pass a resolution creating an Airport Alliance that would allow incentives for airlines looking to expand into Yakima. Smith added that more programs are available to help businesses become more competitive.
6. Education Alignment – Smith reported that the committee members will be meeting soon to review the career programs list that will be available to kids from 6th grade through college age.
7. YKM – Peterson shared that a local business was looking to expand its manufacturing at the airport. A sub-lease was signed with an option to purchase the 51,000 SF building. Another company is looking at storing a helicopter at the Yakima Airport for the upcoming fire season.
8. Convention Center – Upton reported that a committee was formed to review qualifications. Council approved an agreement with the architect and the timeline will be finalized soon. It's anticipated that construction could begin in spring 2020.

ii. Traded Sector

1. YKM –
2. Clusters – Smith stated that he will be attending the Pack Expo Show in September. The focus is on foil bagging/packaging.

- iii. Community pride – Holt reported that several events will be taking place in downtown Yakima and highlighted some of the other signature events. Planters will be planted this weekend and the hanging baskets should be going up in the next couple weeks.

3. Staff and Partner Announcements

- a. Downtown infrastructure criteria – Holt met with City staff to discuss standards. He has a student that will help inventory the needs and research grant funding opportunities.
- b. Main Street Conference report – Holt highlighted some major takeaways from the Main Street Conference (importance of an Economic Development person and revitalization). Cousens added it was interesting to see how spaces are being used (such as alleyways). The most important thing White learned was the importance of public spaces and cities doing more with less. He would like to see Naches Parkway used as a downtown destination. He also would like to see more

opportunities available for multi-use spaces. White and Cousens asked to have staff members that attended the conference submit to Council what they learned.

4. Other Business

Cousens stated that she attended the Partnership Committee meeting when they were discussing affordable housing. She believes that if the discussion of affordable housing expands to include builders and developers that Council should consider moving that to the Economic Development Committee.

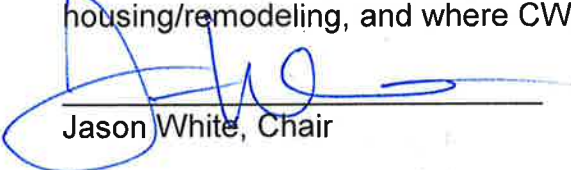
Gutiérrez expressed concern with the procurement process and the use of E-Verify and that she would be bringing her concern up at the next Council meeting.

5. Future agenda items

- a. Incentives – Yakima Airport Alliance
- b. Draft Vacant Building Ordinance
- c. YCDA GIS information – linking with the City
- d. Arts District

6. Audience Participation

Mann asked a couple questions about the vacant building ordinance, affordable housing/remodeling, and where CWU was at with expanding its aviation program.



Jason White, Chair