

**MINUTES
HERMITAGE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
JUNE 5, 2008**

The Hermitage Community & Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting June 5, 2008 at the Hermitage Municipal Building, Conference Room #303, Hermitage, PA.

HCEDC Members Attending: Rex Knisley Members Absent: Bob Cucitrone
George Kraynak
Meg Grober
John Holliday
Tony Pagliaroli
Angela Palumbo

HCEDC Commissioner Representative: Bill Moder

Others in Attendance: Gary Gulla, City of Hermitage
Gary Hinkson, City of Hermitage
Jeremy Coxe, City of Hermitage
Amy Gargiulo, City of Hermitage

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rex Knisley called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed from the March 6, 2008 Regular Meeting and March 25, 2008 Special Meeting. George Kraynak moved to accept the minutes. John Holliday seconded the motion. All members approved.

III. BUSINESS MEETING

A. Monthly Activity Report

Gary Gulla reviewed the monthly activity report for April and gave an update on the following projects in the City:

The Pedestrian Facilities Policy was adopted by the City in 2002. Due to increased construction costs, it was recommended that the policy be amended to increase the amount contributed by the City for sidewalk construction from \$15/l.f. to \$20/l.f.

Lawrence County Community Action Partnership Agreement – Lawrence County Community Action Partnership has approximately \$3 million in federal funds to be used for lead abatement in northwest PA. They are partnering with the Hermitage Housing Rehabilitation Program which enables the Hermitage Housing Rehab money to go further. The first project bid was about \$17,500. Approximately \$12,500 of that project was paid out of Lawrence County's funds.

2007 Paving Program – The City is preparing to bid the last remaining streets needing improvement in the Patagonia area. This will complete the southern block of Patagonia from Orangeville Rd. to the Sharon line and North Water Ave. to the Ohio line.

Neighborhood Investment Program – Culverts have recently been replaced near the former Varley Dodge on State Street and improvements made to the catch basin behind the Hermitage Town Plaza making significant improvements for stormwater runoff in the area.

Paving of Theota Drive, Todd Avenue and N. Crescent Street - The utility companies have agreed to replace some of their older lines at the same time the paving project will be underway to eliminate having to tear up the roadway again in the near future.

Athletic Field Project – Preparations are underway to send this project out to bid in July. A couple of permit issues need to be resolved with the Department of Environmental Protection. A NPDES permit is needed. Hopefully all field areas will be graded and seeded by October 2008 and the field will be available for fall 2009. A DCNR application grant applied for was not received.

Buhl Farm Park – Buhl Park applied for \$500,000 in Growing Greener money and \$330,000 of DCNR money. The City applied for a \$250,000 grant for improvements to the Casino.

Elm Street Applications – Two applications, for \$250,000 each, are pending approval.

Highland Road Transportation Enhancement Project – Sidewalks scheduled for the first phase are installed. The 2% cross slope required by ADA is very difficult to construct. Some of the sidewalks recently installed may have to be reconstructed by the contractor. Phase II will be bid in November. Construction to widen the rest of Highland Road and install sidewalks on both sides of the road should begin in spring 2009.

LindenPointe – Funding applications have been submitted to the federal government and to the state. The City has been contacted to see if there is interest in additional funds to design and construct the building using LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. The City is still trying to obtain DCNR grant funds for trails. A final inspection was held in February and the Harrisburg office requested additional site photos. Once they received the information it would be 6-8 weeks before the release of funds.

Tech Center Project – The City continually receives questions from the Governor's Office and DCED about the RCAP process. This project is well positioned to obtain funds. It is anticipated that the Tech Center should be functional by the 4th Quarter of 2009.

The LindenPointe Roadway Extension project is currently out to bid.

At this time no federal construction dollars are available for the new Armory. The hope is that the project will be funded in the fiscal '09 budget. The appraised value a couple of years ago for the site next to the Municipal Building was \$1 million. Hopefully the facility will be available to purchase in three years.

B. Community & Economic Development and RLF Reports – April

The Revolving Loan Fund Repayment Reports were reviewed for April. All payments were current. For April the RLF program balance was \$170,504.11. Total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$216,181.63. The Landscape and Façade Improvement program balance was \$171,733.68. The total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$190,520.24.

John Holliday moved to accept the RLF reports. George Kraynak seconded the motion. All members approved.

Meg Grober moved to adjourn the meeting. Angela Palumbo seconded the motion. All members approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Gargiulo
Recording Secretary

Draft as of 6/12/08
Pending Approval 7/10/08