

MINUTES
HERMITAGE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
DECEMBER 3, 2009

The Hermitage Community & Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting December 3, 2009 at the Hermitage Municipal Building, Conference Room #302, 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
Lynn Brest, City of Hermitage
Jeremy Coxe, City of Hermitage
Amy Gargiulo, City of Hermitage
Marcia Hirschmann, City of Hermitage
Paul Young, City of Hermitage

I. GENERAL

A. Call to Order

Rex Knisley called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Gulla summarized project activities in the City. The 2010 budget was very challenging and some programs were scaled back. The City started the budget process with a little over \$1 million deficit and is projecting to be \$250,000 short in wage taxes. It may be 2012 before the city begins to see a turnaround and increased income. A tax increase will not occur this year.

Five positions were vacated in the City this year due to retirement and have not been filled. Reductions in staff have also been made including the elimination of the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist position, the Zoning Administrator and a temporary engineer. CDBG funds continue to be reduced every year and the City still has not received the 2009 grant agreement.

Because of a transfer of funds and refinancing of the bond issue, a number of projects will continue. Projects include the Neighborhood Investment Program, the Lamor Road Widening Project, the Buhl Corridor Pedestrian Facility Project, the State Street/Maple Drive/Dutch Lane Improvements Project, and the Indian Run Stream Restoration Project.

Also, the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project, which the City is under a consent order to complete, will begin in 2010. This project will cause a sewer rate increase over the next few years. The project will move forward pending final approval of the DEP Part II application.

The Board of Commissioners approved ordinances on the sale of lots to Butler County Community College and SEED and approved the lease to Novocell Semiconductor for their temporary location at the Training & Workforce Development Center.

The Neighborhood Improvement Project on Lyle and Cohasset is almost complete for the construction season. The contractor is doing final grading and replacing driveway tie-ins.

Construction of the Training & Workforce Development Building has gone well and the City will take over the building this month. Gary Hinkson received a letter requesting more documentation on the Tech Center Project. Funding should be received in 2010.

B. Community & Economic Development and RLF Reports – October

The Revolving Loan Fund Repayment Reports were reviewed for October. All payments were current. For October the RLF program balance was \$206,430.74. Total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$208,376.24. The Landscape and Façade Improvement program balance was \$59,143.46. The total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$63,352.06.

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

C. Training & Workforce Development Building

- **Draft Ordinance – Policy & General Operating**
- **Draft Facility Use Requisition**

Gary Gulla reviewed and explained the draft ordinance which explains the policy and use of the Training & Workforce Development Building. John Holliday moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Ordinance. Angela Palumbo seconded the motion. All members approved.

In discussing future references to the facility, it was decided that the building should be referred to as the Training & Workforce Development “Center”, not “Building”.

The activity of the Training & Workforce Development Center will become a regular agenda item on the HCEDC meeting agendas to look at the status of activity at the location.

A discussion was held regarding the facility usage requests and rates for businesses and training providers.

The meeting schedule for 2010 was included in the meeting packet information and was acceptable to the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Gargiulo
Recording Secretary

Draft as of 12/8/09
Pending Approval 1/7/10