

CITY COUNCIL
Special Planning Workshop

The City Council has set a Special Planning Workshop meeting, inviting the Economic Development Authority, Business Park, and Planning and Zoning Commission members for the purpose of discussing planning and economic development efforts for the City.

9:00 A.M.

January, 25th 2021

Present: Mayor Wade LeBlanc
Dustin Goutermont
Richard DeRosier
Shane Hoff
Ben Bautch

Steven VanHouse – P&Z
Nelson French – P&Z / Business Park / EDA
Seth Thun – Business Park
Floyd Baker – EDA / Business Park
Bethany Smuk – EDA – VIA ZOOM
Gary Thompson – Zoning Administrator – VIA ZOOM
Lana Fralich – City Administrator
David Drown – EDA Director
Devon Monteith – Confidential Secretary

Mayor LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 9:09 A.M. The Meeting will be conducted in person with option for ZOOM.

David Drown, Economic Development Director, presented an overview of economic development, planning, and future potential for the city. Each member had previously provided their top 10 business ideas for the Business Park and their top 10 ideas for the rest of the City. The information was compiled and shared in a graph form for all members to review and discuss. The top five businesses in the Business Park were Sports Bar/Restaurant, Brewery/Distillery, Outdoor Equipment Rental, Sports Park/Recreation, and Coffee/Ice Cream shop. The top five businesses in the rest of the City were retail shops, Bar/Grille/Restaurant, ATV/Snowmobile Sales and Repairs, Bakery/Sandwich Shops, and Event Center/Maker Space. There was discussion on using the natural landscaping of the Business Park versus investing in infrastructure to make traditional lots, minimizing the impact on wetlands, tax base, jobs, and financial investments. Each of the members present provided comments to the needs of the community, attracting people and businesses to invest, assistance needed to help businesses expand and grow, recognizing competition can be healthy, and the need for housing to aid in workforce. There was lengthy discussion on the city shopping center area, areas for city events and festivals, and creating an inviting city center. There was further discussion on housing being the top priority need for the city, making the front of the Business Park attractive to the highway with an emphasis on tourism, and making

significant improvements to the center of city. Drown ended the meeting with his recommendations to modify the zoning codes to reflect the direction of the city, streamline efficiencies for working with developers, educate the City on different financing tools such as TIF and Tax Abatements, work with local businesses, and build a list of available lots and buildings for potential development.

Motion by Hoff, second DeRosier to at 11:16 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor LeBlanc – Aye
Member Bautch – Aye
Member DeRosier – Aye

Member Goutermont – Aye
Member Hoff – Aye

Minutes taken by: Devon Monteith

Attest:



Wade LeBlanc, Mayor



Lana Fralich, City Administrator