

CITY OF UNION
Economic Development Committee
October 16, 2019

Members in attendance:

Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner

Jeff Bowman

Larry Solomon, Mayor

David Plummer, City Administrator

Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director

Bob Jonas, Boone County Planning Commission

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

Old Business: Administrator Plummer updated on the Kroger outlots, noting that Buffalo Wings and Rings is now under construction. Member Bowman inquired about the sidewalk between BWR and the library. That sidewalk is still proposed, and will be funded by the Boone County Library, but he has not heard any updates on when it will be constructed. Mayor Solomon said he had been in contact with Lisa Ammons from Kroger and hoped to have an update on the Old Kroger building, including the western most outlot (where the liquor store was), on Friday, following a meeting of Kroger directors.

Transportation Update: Administrator Plummer noted there had been significant work on Mt. Zion done in the last month, but the project has no major updates as to timeline or schedule. KYTC is hopeful to transition traffic to new road between Gunpowder and US42 by end of 2019.

Boone County Planning Update: Mr. Jonas noted that the update noted the slow rollout of the zoning update, and that this project will be the offices priority for the next several months. As developments and changes are proposed, the commission will be updated and feedback solicited.

Gresham Smith Phase 2 Report: Commissioner Ramage led a discussion of the Gresham Smith report, reviewing the sections and recommendations. The group recommended holding off Phase 3 of the GS Town Center Report until after the visioning session with KLC in February. At that point, EDC can use the data collected in that session to have a better understanding of how we expect our city operations to grow in the future. This review can help focus phase 3 plan to study and recommend the size of office which the city will need to be effective moving forward. In addition, the study can look to provide guidance on the industries/commercial office types most plausible to come to the Town Center.

Ramage recommended these over-arching points be discussed at the visioneering session and then brought back to the EDC, where they can use them to help guide the design of the reconceptualization over Districts C and D, then G and E which they are reconceptualized.

New Business: Commissioner Ramage asked the group to begin looking for ideas to tackle in 2020, and where the EDC can best focus efforts in the next year. Some ideas included Business Retention, Recruiting Amazon-Related business to Union and more. He asked the group to consider these ideas for the next meeting, so goals can be set for next year.

Wednesday, November 20 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date at the Union City Building. The public is invited to attend. No December meeting will be held, due to the holiday season, and the first meeting of 2020 will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6 p.m.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 7:09 pm by Commissioner Ramage.