

CITY OF UNION
Economic Development Committee
September 16, 2020 (via Zoom Videoconferencing)

Members in attendance:

Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner

James Collett

Jeff Bowman

John Cole

Steve Harper, BCPC Union Representative

David Plummer, City Administrator

Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director

Bob Jonas, Boone County Planning Commission

Barry Burke, City Engineer

Mayor Larry Solomon

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

Transportation Update: Administrator Plummer advised that the Mt. Zion project nearing completion, with paving work going on at night. The roadway is anticipated to be complete sometime in October at this point.

Boone County Planning Update: Mr. Harper advised that there was nothing new at Planning and Zoning. There has been discussion of a Mike's Carwash location near the new Kroger, but it would need a zone change if it moved forward. Mayor Solomon indicated that there was not likely to be commission support for such a change in zoning.

New Business: Administrator Plummer presented a cost of \$2000 for the proposed bench program, which should make the installation and purchase of the benches cost-neutral to the city. He is moving forward with the two bench styles previously discussed, which are black ribbed. He is recommending a 10-year sponsorship guarantee to those who purchase, with the possibility of renewal. The city will replace any benches damaged in that time frame. He recommends working on the program with a bulk order of benches in mind, to provide order and an economy of scale on installation. This would make it more efficient and more cost-effective.

Director Hinkle updated on the tree program, recommending that the program wait until options on Mt. Zion landscape study were further finalized and where the locations for this program would compliment the city efforts at beautification and the directions of emphasis in that program. She will return with more information as the commission moves forward with the Landscape Study recommendations. The ideal time to plant



trees is in the fall, so fall of 2021, would be the first opportunity available if everything is ready in the program at that time.

Director Hinkle also presented a review of the Honor Banner Program, and displayed some sample banners so the EDC could recommend a standard size. The Honor Banners are 24x48, and she recommended that size to be a standard for all city banners, to make the banners look uniform and allow for the utilization of hardware on the poles for either Honor banners or other city sponsored banners. The EDC approved the Honor Banner program to move forward for commission approval at the next meeting of that group.

Administrator Plummer reviewed the results of the first Small Business Grant Program. The City Commission approved eight grants in the amount of \$35,743.46, and the payments to those businesses have been sent, and reimbursements submitted to the state on behalf of the city. Plummer noted that the city still has a substantial grant portion remaining from the state and recommended a second round of grants to be offered to eligible businesses in the city in October.

The EDC looked at possible designs for monument signage to be placed at the gateway entrances of the City of Union. Engineer Burke presented schematics for the Northern gateway entrance, near the new Kroger location. These schematics suggested a possible location and where power and water could be accessed to provide illumination and irrigation to the signs as needed. The signs will need more research and design work before proceeding forward, and the group decided to leave this discussion at the EDC group for now. Mr. Collett suggested that Crescent Springs has done these types of signs, and some include electronic message systems in them, so that may be an option to consider as well. The group will look into this option as well.

Mr. Collett asked if the KYTC had placed the required monument markers utilized in surveying as part of the Mt. Zion project. Administrator Plummer said he didn't think they were in place yet, but he would check with Anthony Griggs at the next Public Works Committee meeting.

Wednesday, October 21 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date. The location will be via Zoom, due to member travel and work commitments. The public is invited to attend.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 7:05 pm by Commissioner Ramage.