

# Baraboo Economic Development Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### January 7, 2021

#### I. **Call Meeting to Order and Note Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

Chairperson Caflich called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Baraboo Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 101 South Blvd., Baraboo, WI. The meeting was noticed in conformance with Wisconsin State Statutes regarding open meetings.

#### II. **Roll Call of Membership**

Present: Caflich, Johnson, Wastlund, Bowers, Kent, Mueller, Palm, Persche, White

Absent: Ayar, Taylor, Walczak

Other: Patrick Cannon

#### III. **Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes for December 3, 2020

Palm (1); Johnson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

#### IV. **Approve Agenda**

Motion to approve the amended agenda as presented

Bowers (1); Kent (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

#### V. **Presentation**

Alana Voss – Sauk County Extension

Ms. Voss gave a summary of the economic activities in Sauk County related to agriculture. This industry contributes 4,312 jobs in the county. The estimate of \$743,000,000 is attributed to the agricultural economy.

#### VI. **Action Items**

None

#### VII. **Information/Discussion Items**

##### a. **Continued discussion on housing options for possible future recommendation to City Council**

Ms. Caflich would like the Commission to set Housing as a goal for BEDC. She would such as a video, grants and an obvious link to the City website as some of the items.

It was decided that an Ad Hoc committee should be created to work on this item. Mr. White and Ms. Caflich volunteered to serve.

##### b. **Review and discuss 2020 goals for BEDC**

An extended discussion was held regarding the setting of goals for BEDC. One of the unknown items is the status of the grant application with EDA. Once that is finalized, the setting of goals should be clearer.

The Commission would like to set the February meeting to be only a discussion and establishment of goals.

##### c. **Review and discuss BEDC tour schedule of local businesses**

The Commission would like to hold on tours at his time due to COVID-19.

**d. Updates on Development Activities**

- Mayor Palm updated on the following:
  - The Police and Fire Commission is now an appointed Commission rather than elected body.
  - The Development Agreement with Rapid River, LLC has been amended due to some soils issues.
  - The City has recently repurchased a lot from Driftless Glen and has also sold it to another party.
  -

**e. Commissioners and their representative entities**

- Dr. Mueller updated the Commission of the school attendance plan and the status of the building updates. She also indicated that the School Board is work on its next Referendum issue.
- MS. Caflisch updated on the Chamber activities. They are going digital. She also indicated that her tern on the Board expires at the end of December.
- Ms. Persche updated on the activities of Power Up. They are planning on reconnecting with the various parties. This activity slowed due to COVID-19. She will be attending the Renewable Energy Summit next week. They are also working with the Sauk County Solar Project. A recent meeting was held between the City and Alliant Energy about a Solar project.
- Mr. White updated on the activities of SCDC. He will be attending the Governor’s Conference in a few weeks. It will be virtual. The SCDC Housing Committee has also begun meeting again.
- Mr. Kent updated on the manufacturing industry. He expressed a concern on the aging of the workforce and that the jobs are not being backfilled. This is a long term problem. Teel Manufacturing hired 97 people in 2020. Approximately 50% of these hires were new positions.
- Ms. Wastlund indicated that the CDA is working on Library project.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:12 pm.

White (1); Mueller (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

Nanci Caflisch  
Chairperson

Patrick Cannon  
Recorder