

MINUTES OF MEETING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AUGUST 2, 2021

Councilman Toby Clark opened the meeting and thanked the guests, the Committee Members, and all Council Members who voted yes to allow the creation of this Committee. Present were Committee members Councilman Toby Clark, Councilwoman Evelyn Saldana, Councilwoman Kim Richards, and Resident Andrew Fallon; absent was Resident Lynn Gothier.

Councilman Clark asked if all Committee members were in agreement to appoint Kim Richards as the Custodian of Records; all agreed. He then asked if all were in agreement to appoint himself as the Moderator of the Meetings; all agreed.

Councilman Clark explained the purpose of the Committee is to create recommendations to the Mayor and City Council based upon surveys, resident ideas and the financial condition of the City. He then explained the boundaries of the Committee. He read from the KLC Legal Handbook the duties and powers of the Mayor and the City Council. He stated this Committee's powers, the Mayor's powers, and the City Council's powers are set and cannot be overridden by this Committee and this Committee cannot infringe on the powers of the Mayor or the City Council.

Councilman Clark stated the next scheduled meeting of the first Monday of September is Labor Day. Therefore, there will be no meeting in September.

Councilwoman Richards suggested the September meeting be moved to the first Tuesday of the month. Mr. Clark stated the meeting date and time were set by the Municipal Order and he was unsure about deviating from the Order's schedule. He will check on the legalities of the issue.

Andrew Fallon was given the floor. He mentioned the purpose of the Committee and asked for direction on exactly what we are to do. He has been researching Economic Development. He explained "Broken Glass Economics", which basically means when your City looks good, it reduces crime, makes residents happy to be residents, and causes communities to come together.

Kim Richards was given the floor. She stated that she wished to elaborate on the Committee's boundaries. She stated that she gave her word when this Committee's creation was voted upon, that this Committee would not interfere with the Community Center Committee, and asked the guests not to comment or bring up issues regarding the Community Center. Further, she stated that this is not a place for resident complaints regarding procedures, practices or employees. She asked that everyone refrain from those types of discussions as

this Committee has no authority on those matters. She then stated that she had made a motion during budget negotiations to set aside \$100,000 for resident programs. She said her feeling is that some of the Council members may have voted no to that Motion because she did not have a plan for the requested money. She said this Committee is here to make a plan.

The floor was opened to the guests, and the following ideas were submitted for consideration:

- 1) Evelyn Saldana suggested a habitat program.
- 2) Evelyn Saldana suggested a park in the vacant lot next to the police department. She provided pictures and prices on some ideas. Kim Richards stated that that lot floods pretty bad and dirt will need to be brought in to stop that. Further, that lot may not belong to the City.
- 3) Mike Bierbaum suggested a multipurpose building in the lot next to City Hall, which may include a gymnasium, indoor pool, walking/running track, exercise room, computer rooms, library, etc. Kim Richards stated she is not attempting to dismiss the idea. She wants to warn that the City has no idea of our actual revenue this year from the gross receipts tax, and has no idea of the impact of COVID-19 from 2020.
- 4) Andrew Fallow suggested scholarship programs.
- 5) Bonnie Manning suggested chair yoga for seniors at the Community Center, but was told that needs to be addressed at the Community Center Committee meeting.
- 6) Kim Richards suggested a program which would provide free Wi-Fi internet access to all residents; the houses and the two apartment complexes. In the Richards administration, she did research on this and has found that the monthly cost would be approximately \$500 and the start-up cost would be approximately \$150,000. She stated this can be done in phases (one street at a time), but only provided that we have ample excess funds. Further, other cities are doing this; in Jeffersontown much of their residents receive free Wi-Fi. This is a costly program which needs further investigation, but a worthy program which would eventually save all residents about \$50 per month.
- 7) Andrew Fallon suggested weekend fair-type events with vendor booths and vendor food trucks.
- 8) Vivian Ridener suggested that this City look into the street lighting in places which are dark where there are no poles on Hikes Avenue. Also, residents brought up the recent striping of the speed humps. Residents stated the paint is the incorrect type and the rain is washing it off. Also, it does not dry instantly, causing the paint to be on driver's tires.
- 9) Liz Bierbaum suggested that the City repair all cracks/holes/break-aways on sidewalks.
- 10) Jerry Embry has multiple ideas. He thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated ideas should be categorized in small ideas & big ideas. The Police Department should never be cut in any way; our Police keep the crime out of West Buechel and we need to give the Police whatever it is they need to keep them happy because they keep crime on

the other side of the railroad tracks. He stated we need to continue the drainage and sidewalk projects. Further, he suggested additional flag poles to fly the State Flag, and the Blue Lives Matter, unless that would be too controversial. He believes the key to all of this is community involvement. He suggested a portable street cleaner, fall festival with food trucks like the Catholic picnics, casino night, bingo night, community pot luck dinners, West Buechel sponsored Day at the Races at Churchill Downs, scholarships, tutor programs (he thanked Liz Bierbaum for her youth involvement). Mr. Embry stated that the things that make communities great are the community; the more the residents come out and get involved, the more they will love and respect their community.

- 11) Liz Bierbaum suggested the bingo and casino nights could be funded with donated gift cards from local businesses.
- 12) An unidentified gentleman brought up the fact that his yard floods when there are heavy rains. However, he lives on the other side of Ethel Avenue, which is not within the City.

The survey was discussed. Kim Richards stated that the survey must be simple, short, and easy for residents. Toby Clark stated he would like to set up a tent-type area where the residents of the 2 apartment complexes could submit their survey responses, since the apartment management does not allow us to go door-to-door.

Mr. Clark closed the meeting.