
**CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 7:30 a.m. • Community Room, City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fritz Brown; Jim Escamilla; Kevan Hess; Bobby J. Hopewell; Bob Miller; Patti Owens; Doug Phillips; Tom Schlueter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Bolton; John MacKenzie; Nancy Troff

CITY COMMISSIONERS/CITY STAFF PRESENT: Eric Kemmer (Development Manager); Jerome Kisscorni (Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development); Sara Jo Shipley (Redevelopment Coordinator); Ryan Simpson (ED Coordinator); Dwayne Powell, Jr. (Neighborhood Business & Special Projects Coordinator); Joy Orr (Administrative Assistant)

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Chair Schlueter

MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Mr. Brown moved to excuse all absent members; supported by Ms. Owens. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Owens moved approval of the agenda; supported by Mr. Escamilla. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2017: Mr. Phillips moved approval of the minutes; supported by Mr. Brown. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Owens moved approval of the financial report; supported by Mr. Escamilla. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of a recommendation to approve the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Region Eight Interlocal Agreement and designate the EDC Chair to sign.

Mr. Kisscorni opened the discussion regarding the MEDC Region Eight Interlocal Agreement, and debriefed the board on the details within the agreement. During the discussion, Mr. Phillips added that he had interpreted the agreement is structured to limit the amount of duplicate practices within the MEDC. All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Region Eight Interlocal Agreement, and designate the EDC Chair to sign; supported by Mr. Brown. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Approval of an Agreement to Contract for EDC/BRA Legal Services for one (1) year beginning October 1, 2017. (Motion: Approve Contracting for Legal Services for one (1) year starting October 1, 2017.)

Mr. Kisscorni introduced the contract to hire John Kneas for one year while a replacement for his position is still being sought for. Mr. Brown stated that it would be nice to have Mr. Kneas back, even if only temporary, for his BRA experience and legal services. Mayor Hopewell asked if Mr. Kneas would be willing to train the new hire when a full time replacement is found. Mr. Kisscorni said Mr. Kneas would be willing to help, but it is up to the attorney's office to decide to fill that position again. Mr. Miller would like the BRA chair to reach out personally to the attorney's office to discuss rehiring and training a replacement.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Agreement to Contract for EDC/BRA Legal Services for one(1) year beginning October 1, 2017; supported by Mr. Hess. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITIZEN COMMENTS

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Phillips had commented that the BRA will need to look into the board's plans for our future attorney needs as Mr. John Kneas is on hire for a temporary basis, a more permanent solution will need to be created sooner rather than later.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:54 a.m.


Joy R. Orr, Recording Secretary


Thomas Schlueter, Chair