**City of Marine City**

**Community and Economic Development Board**

**October 28, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Community and Economic Development Board was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, and was called to order by Chairperson Scaccia at 6:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Scaccia.

**Present: Chairperson Laura Scaccia; Board Member Heather Hatcher; Planning Commission Representative Joseph Moran; TIFA Board Representative Robert Weisenbaugh; City Manager Elaine Leven; Deputy Clerk Michele Goodrich**

**Absent: Board Member Robert Klingler; City Commissioner Cheryl Vercammen**

**Communications**

None.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by Planning Commission Representative Moran, seconded by TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh, to approve agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion by Planning Commission Representative Moran, seconded by TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh, to approve the Community & Economic Development Board minutes of September 23, 2020. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Kayak Launch Site

City Manager Leven advised the Board that a new Coastal Zone Grant was released and that engineering costs were a qualified expense. She stated that Project Control Engineers quoted engineering costs at approximately $3,000.00 which could be rolled into the grant application. City Manager Leven requested help from the Board in writing the grant application.

Planning Commission Representative Moran questioned using the assistance of Deputy Clerk Goodrich to write the grant. City Manager Leven responded that due to budgetary constraints, it was better to have someone help to write the grant for free of cost. She stated that there was no money in the budget to pay for grant writing. Planning Commission Representative Moran offered to help write the Coastal Zone Grant.

Downtown Business Loop

City Manager Leven advised that the Planning Commission had tabled the proposed Nautical Mile changes until after a review of the City’s Master Plan.

Slash Pad

TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh questioned where DPW Supervisor Itrich received his information regarding the costs of a Splash Pad; he stated that he had spoken with people in Clay Township and Goodells and that their costs were not as high. City Manager Leven responded that DPW Supervisor Itrich had done his research and high costs were related to water prices, installation costs from certified personnel and that COVID had driven costs for materials up. She stated that the numbers presented were very preliminary and that the numbers were subject to change.

Planning Commission Representative Moran questioned if it was possible to charge a fee to use the Splash Pad. Chairperson Scaccia stated that use of the facility for free was something the City should provide to the residents.

Informational Area in City Hall

Chairperson Scaccia advised that the Chamber of Commerce was looking for a new Director and that she wanted to put together a nice poster for the space at the City Offices however, there was no calendar of events right now.

Advertising – Movie Theatre

Planning Commission Representative Moran stated that theatres had reopened at 20% capacity however, he believed that any money used should be applied toward events and not advertising.

Grant Opportunities

Chairperson Scaccia asked City Manager Leven what the CED Board needed to bring before the City Commission in order to use Deputy Clerk Goodrich to help write grants so that the CED Board had funds to work with. City Manager Leven responded that there would need to be a budget amendment and stated that she wanted to complete outstanding grants. She advised that although the fee schedule for a grant writer was approved that there was no actual money in the budget to pay for services.

Chairperson Scaccia asked how to ensure that grant writing funds were in the budget; City Manager Leven advised that the CED Board needed to be seen and heard. Chairperson Scaccia voiced her opinion that the CED Board was useless if there was no support from the City for grant writing. She stated that the CED Board could not accomplish any goals without financial support. City Manager Leven stated that a member of the CED Board could do the grant writing for free of charge.

**New Business**

Belle River Initiative: Clinton River Cruise Boat

Chairperson Scaccia advised that the name of the Initiative was changed to the Marine City Marina Coalition. She stated that there was a planned meeting November 11 at 1:00 pm to devise an outline to bring to the City Commission regarding the Clinton River Cruise Boat and invited City Manager Leven to attend.

Community Foundation Liaison

Chairperson Scaccia advised the Board that there needed to be a communicator between the City of Marine City and the St. Clair County Community Foundation. Chairperson Scaccia directed City Manager Leven to discuss the perimeters of the position with Mayor Vandenbossche and stated that it was important to have a discussion or meeting with the Community Foundation regarding available funding.

**Open Discussion**

Chairperson Scaccia stated that she had met with a gentleman interested in opening a business in Marine City and that he had presented questions regarding what incentives Marine City had to offer new businesses that proved difficult to answer. Board Member Hatcher asked what other cities offer new businesses and Chairperson Scaccia stated that they oftentimes offer tax incentives.

Chairperson Scaccia led a discussion regarding spreading the word for a private entity to run a potential shuttle service from local marinas and campgrounds into Marine City.

Board Member Hatcher stated that the City had the hardware for banner signage and that the CED Board would just have to find the flags and develop a concept for what the flag would look like. Chairperson Scaccia stated that she was sure the City could apply for a grant for flags.

**Adjournment**

Motion by TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh, seconded by Board Member Hatcher, to adjourn at 6:58 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Goodrich

Deputy Clerk

Kristen Baxter

City Clerk