

College Place Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission- - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Monday, June 5, 2023)

Generated by Sherri St Clair on Monday, June 5, 2023

1. Opening Items

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Chair Leen called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Information: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Commission Members Kelli Leen - Chair;
Doug Case;
Bruce Morehead

Ex- Officio

Staff City Administrator, Michael Rizzitiello
Finance Director, Brian Carleton;
City Clerk, Sherri St. Clair;

Also Present:

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tracy Warner; Tom Stokes

Procedural: 1.03 Public Comment - None

2. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 2.01 Approve Agenda for June 5, 2023

Action (Consent): 2.02 Approve Minutes from May 1, 2023

Action (Consent): 2.03 Cancellation of the July 3, 2023 & August 7, 2023 Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission Meetings

Action (Consent): 2.04 Approve Consent Agenda - Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, provide for a consent agenda listing items for approval of the Commission by a single motion. Typically the items listed under the consent agenda are the minutes from previous meetings and the agenda for the current meeting. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Commission Members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Commission Member.

Commission Member Morehead made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Second by Member Case and the motion passed 3-0.

3. Guest Presentations - None

4. Action Agenda

Action: 4.01 Draft Walla Walla County Broadband Plan -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that in order to qualify federal broadband grant funding, the County Broadband Action Team (BAT) must develop a County Broadband Plan. The BAT has been working to develop a plan for the County. Mr. Rizzitiello provided an overview of the plan to the Commission.

Commission Member Morehead made a motion to recommend approval of the County Broadband Plan to the City Council. Second by Member Case and the motion passed 3-0.

Action: 4.02 Transportation Benefit District Revenue Option: 0.1% Sales Tax -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that the City does not have a dedicated source of revenue for street projects. While the City has been able to federally classify many roads, for those that do not qualify for federal classification, there is no dedicated fund. With increased construction costs and a decrease in gas tax due to fuel efficient vehicles, the City would like to pursue a 0.1 percent sales tax option for the Transportation Benefit District that the City established in 2017.

Discussion ensued.

Commission Member Morehead made a motion to recommend to City Council pursuing 0.1% Sales Tax Option for Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Second by Member Case and the motion passed 3-0.

5. Staff Reports

Discussion, Information: 5.01 Blake Fix State Law -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission Washington State's drug laws were going to sunset at the end of June 2023. Governor Inslee requested a special legislative session to address this and came up with the Blake Fix bill that takes effect July 1, 2023. Mr. Rizzitiello provided additional information on the Blake Fix bill.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 5.02 Community Events -

Ms. St. Clair informed the Commission that College Place Farmers Market will be at the College Place Municipal Campus from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Thursdays. Also, the City is still accepting vendor applications for the Market. Ms. St. Clair announced that the College Place Freedom Festival will be July 2, 2023 at the College Place High School from 6:00 to 10:00 PM and the City is currently accepting vendor applications. This year Movies in the Park will be on June 24th, July 8th, July 22nd, and August 5th and the City is accepting sponsorships for this event.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 5.03 Co(W)alla Creative District Public Meetings -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that the CoWalla Creative District is working on the draft plan for the joint creative district and will be having two community meetings, one on June 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Little Theatre in Walla Walla and one on June 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Lions Club Building in College Place.

Discussion, Information: 5.04 May 2023 Development Update -

Mr. Rizzitiello presented the May 2023 Development Update outlining the status of various projects within the City.

Discussion, Information: 5.05 Main Street RCW Tweak -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that the City has been unsuccessful in gaining interest and participation in the creation of a downtown association. City's pursuing the State Main Street Tax Incentive must have a downtown association, therefore, Mr. Rizzitiello is proposing to lobby to change the State RCW

to include the ability for downtown areas within three miles of each other to create one downtown association for both. Each downtown district would have its own cap limit.

Discussion, Information: 5.06 Martin Airport Annexation -

Mr. Rizzitiello provided the Commission with some history in regards to Martin Airfield. Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that the new owners of the Martin Airfield have applied for annexation and the City has agreed to assist in a grant application through the Community Economic Revitalization for site readiness analysis once the property has been annexed into the City. Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that there will be an public hearing at the July 11, 2023 council meeting regarding the Martin Airfield annexation.

Discussion, Information: 5.07 US 12 Phase 7 Update -

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Commission that Phase 7 of the new section of US 12 is now open. The new section of highway saves drivers a mile of travel time. Mr. Rizzitiello also informed the Commission that Mayor Hernandez and himself will be traveling to Washington DC in July and discussed earmarks.

6. Closing Items

Information: 6.01 Next Meeting: September 11, 2023

Procedural: 6.02 Conclude

Commission Member Morehead made a motion to conclude the meeting at 5:50 PM. Second by Member Case and the motion passed 3-0.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:



Kelli Leen - Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:



Sherri St. Clair - City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission meeting that occurred June 5, 2023. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.