May 12, 2015

BRIDGEPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
City of Bridgeport
County of Harrison
State of West Virginia

REGULAR SESSION:
At 11:30 a.m. the Bridgeport Development Authority met in the Conference Room of the Bridgeport Municipal Complex at 515 West Main Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
John Stogran, Robert L. Greer, Drew Pomeroiy, Darrell Bowen, Bobbi Warner, Bob Rector, and Bridget Furbee

MEMBER(S) ABSENT:
Joe Murphy, Tom Bush, Jeff Smell, Okey Bowers, and Bill Haller

CITY STAFF PRESENT:
City Manager Kim Haws, Community Development Director Randy Spellman, City Attorney Dean Ramsey, and City Clerk Andrea Kerr

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Minutes of the October 6, 2014 regular meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Drew Pomeroiy; seconded by Bridget Furbee.

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Economic Development Update
   a. White Oaks – Dominion and Hawthorne Suites are still under construction. The retail center has its first tenant, McFly Outdoors. They are doing their buildout and will take 1/3 of the building. There will be room for 4 or 5 tenants after them. This building is located by the Courtyard Marriott and the Holiday Inn Express. Should be complete in 60 days.
   b. Ulta Cosmetics is going in Meadowbrook Mall and taking three spots. Large store and they started construction/demolition.
   c. UHC is doing a few things inside the hospital. Nothing major.
   d. The exterior work on the terminal building at the airport is wrapping up. They put up a new canopy and it looks nice. Gives it more of an airport feel.
   e. The 96 unit apartment complex (Lodgeville Estates) is in the design process right now. They are working on their infrastructure plans. The developers out of Morgantown will be doing 65 lots at Phase II at Crystal Ridge are doing their design work too. They will have lots available and construct houses themselves.
   f. Stonebridge Apartments – 24 apartment units. They got a variance to put the fourth floor in.
   g. The property in front of the Lodgeville Estates will be a Volkswagon/Audi dealership.
h. The Marketplace at Bridgeport (Biafore) has grading work being done right now. It will be 11 acres and will be a mix of businesses, shops, and restaurants.

i. Shop-N-Save should start sometime this summer.

2. Resolution to consider conveyance of property on Platinum Drive to WVDOH.
   a. Randy Spellman stated that this is part of the $3m loan that we had for the creation Platinum Drive (by Citynet). Now that it is complete, this action will allow this property to be deeded back to the DOH. It will be under their control, maintenance and upkeep.
   b. City Attorney Dean Ramsey stated that the grant agreement requires that it be conveyed once the road is complete to the DOH. BDA approved an agreement for parking for Citynet in a previous meeting. Both of these will be taken up with the infrastructure council at the same time. The Platinum Drive agreement is for the whole road (from Rt. 58 to Eastpointe).
   c. The deed of trust is for $3.1 million in the BDA’s name. Mr. Ramsey stated that the BDA is a pass through agency essentially.
   d. Member Robert Greer made a motion to convey the property on Platinum Drive to the WVDOH; motion was seconded by Member Darrell Bowen and unanimously approved.

3. Consider resolution authorizing application for WVEDA Loan of FTTH project.
   a. Member Drew Pomeroy recused himself from discussion and voting.
   b. Member Bob Greer stated that at the first of the year, the city started a project called “Gigaport” in a private/public partnership with Citynet. The pilot project started at the library and went down Johnson Ave to include approximately 100 homes. Citynet is installing to the homes and the city is providing the hardware. The response has been very positive. This area was chosen because it sits on a backbone of a Citynet line and it is not a new area in Bridgeport and there are young families through grandparents living in these areas. Utilization is around 30% with no advertising. It costs $75 for a full gig of speed. Or they can choose the $10 package. Two weeks ago a meeting was set up with reps from WVEDA on how to expand this project to the rest of the city. If the city were to do it alone, it would be slow and we could only do portions at a time. The loan program would allow us to do the entire city in one swoop. We pitched the WVEDA as to the advantages and why we want to see this happen in Bridgeport. Bridgeport would be the first community in the state to have this capability.
   c. Mr. Ramsey said the benefit is that the BDA would make the application to the WVEDA and the BDA would loan the money to Citynet through the normal loan program. Once Citynet constructs everything, they would own and operate the system and there wouldn’t be a big draw on city resources. It is a funding mechanism that Citynet brought to the table. How that is structured will ultimately be up to the WVEDA.
d. City Manager Kim Haws said that this is a no brainer and there won’t be any risk to the city. This won’t be a utility for the city. Citynet will own and operate it. The city is strictly acting as a pass through from the state.

e. Member Darrell Bowen asked if this will need to be put out to bid. Mr. Haws and Mr. Ramsey said that this is a loan not a grant, so there is no need.

f. The application will be made by the BDA and Citynet. Application will be sent to the WVEDA by June 1 for their June 18 meeting.

g. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Member Bob Rector; seconded by Member Bobbi Warner and approved. Member Drew Pomeroy recused himself from the vote.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Member Bobbi Warner asked what is going into the DMV building. Randy Spellman said that the Phoenix Group manages the property, but that there isn’t anything in the works and we aren’t soliciting any specific businesses. Member Darrell Bowen stated that as part of our strategic plan, we should be soliciting businesses.

- Member Bobbi Warner stated that the road leaving Eastpointe is a disaster. Can the city work with the DOH to fix that roadway and intersection. Mr. Spellman said that we request things of that nature to District Four all the time. Ms. Warner said to bypass District Four and go to Charleston. There has to be another option for that intersection.

- Member Bridget Furbee asked for an update on the County Development Corporation that is being developed. Mr. Haws said that the old Harrison County Development Authority was organized and controlled by the County Commission. A study was done to show that the HCDA wasn’t working out so an independent economic development corporation was developed. It is being called the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation. All information from the state will go to this corporation. The county will be giving $75-80,000 per year. The cities of Bridgeport and Clarksburg, by MOU, will be giving $25,000 per year. The private sectors will be made up of charter members ($2,500 along with 3 votes) and regular members ($500 along with 1 vote). The Mayors’ Association will get 1 vote. There are approximately 30 entities that have signed up to participate. There is now enough start-up money for the corporation. There is an interim board appointed until July 1. There is currently an advertisement out for an executive director. The hope is that this person will be on board by August 1. The BDA will have to have a good relationship with this person.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m. on a motion by Member Drew Pomeroy, seconded by Member Drew Pomeroy, and unanimously approved.
PREPARED BY:

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Andrea Kerr, City Clerk

APPROVED:

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Date

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John Stogran, President