



CITY OF FRANKLIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 14, 2020

Members Present:

Jake Sappenfield	President
Josh DeArmitt	Vice President
John Ditmars	Member
Lee Hodgen	Member
Anne McGuinness	Member

Others Present:

Dana Monson	Community Development Specialist
Rob Schafstall	Legal Counsel

Call to Order:

Jake Sappenfield called the meeting to order.

Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum

Approval of Minutes

Lee Hodgen made a motion to approve the March 10th minutes. Josh DeArmitt seconded. Passed.

Old Business

C 2020-05: Brookside/Chartlife (Formerly Hetsco) – Dana Monson reported Brookside's confirmation of a couple large accounts they lost as of the end of December 2019, and so they were changing their lines to accommodate new businesses and bring their numbers back up. John Ditmars sought clarification on the employee and salary numbers. Ms. Monson confirmed the errors. They are still open and operating. This is the last year for their personal property and real property ends 2024. Mr. Ditmars made a motion for recommendation of approval though not in compliance. Josh DeArmitt seconded. Passed.

C 2020-06: Caterpillar – Ms. Monson reported that Caterpillar national has seen a drop. Thus, the decrease in their orders. National also mandated they firm up their operations and make leaner due to hiring issues. They have continued with full employment and business operations. Mr. Sappenfield does not find them in compliance. However, given the nature of these times and their significant investment in the community, he is satisfied with their explanation. Mr. Hodgen made a motion for approval and Anne McGuinness seconded. Passed.

C 2020-08: Electro-Spec – Ms. Monson explained their main issue to be employee retention. The current market they believe to be responsible for their downturn. They were opening operations in China last fall and over the winter. They continue to be in operation. Mr. DeArmitt made a motion for approval and Mr. Hodgen seconded. Passed.

- C 2020-16: Mitsubishi Res. 10-10 –**
- C 2020-17: Mitsubishi Res. 12-10 –**
- C 2020-18: Mitsubishi Res. 13-10 –**
- C 2020-19: Mitsubishi Res. 13-06 –**
- C 2020-20: Mitsubishi Res. 13-29 –**

They did not give much more explanation. They were working on a new contract, and that takes time. They will probably never hit their estimates though they are trying. They still have people working. Mr. Ditmars observed that they have been much more visible in the community in the past and not so much currently. Ms. Monson explained that Bob Francis is transitioning into at least partial retirement and they also have a new president with a different leadership style. He has more of an internal operations focus. They were still supportive of the Japan trip and Kuji student visit. Steve Barnett confirmed they do still want to be involved in the community. It is the final year for 2020-16 through 2020-18. Mr. Sappenfield suggested a site visit at some point in the future. Ms. Monson thinks they would welcome that. Mr. Hodgen suggested Mr. Francis's new representative to come before EDC. Mayor Barnett reminded that last year they missed their compliance date and were turned down on \$100,000. Ms. Linke said there were two or three years they didn't file their abatement paperwork in time. Mr. Ditmars added that was determined to be due to their oversight. Mr. Ditmars made a motion for approval and Ms. McGuinness seconded. Passed.

New Business

C 2020-14: JM Stevens – Ms. Monson identified this to be the real property building on Industrial Drive where Sargent Aerospace has been. It is the last year for the abatement. Mr. Stevens has had a couple people look at the building before coronavirus hit, and he will continue his efforts to lease the building. Mr. Hodgen made a motion for approval and Mr. DeArmitt seconded. Passed.

- C 2020-23: NSK Corp Res. 2016-19 -**
- C 2020-24: NSK Corp 2010-19 & 2013-02 -**
- C 2020-25: NSK Corp 2013-20 –**

All salary and employee numbers are up. Investment numbers are down. They have worked through the entire coronavirus time with schedule and working from home adjustments. They are a good community partner. Mr. DeArmitt made a motion for approval of the three NSK Corp. abatements. Mr. Hodgen seconded. Passed.

- C 2020-26: NSK Precision 2013-18 -**

They are in compliance and met their investment numbers. Mr. Ditmars made a motion for approval. Ms. McGuinness seconded. Passed.

- C 2020-33: Airtomic (Formerly Sargent Aerospace) -**

This is their first year in their new facility on Linville Way. Ms. Monson identified a typo in employee numbers. They have met salary requirements and are up in investments. They have gone through a couple of company buyouts and also changed locations. This abatement is for the new building but approved in 2018, taking that long for them to complete their move. Mr. Hodgen made a motion for approval. Ms. McGuinness seconded. Passed.

Other Business


Rosie Chambers announced a webinar Thursday on the SBA relief fund. They continue as a chamber to try to support the local business community.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of May, 2020.



Jake Sappenfield, President

Anne McGuinness, Secretary