

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
Monday, September 19, 2022 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. Brooks called meeting to order at 6:07pm

2. Roll Call:

	Present/Absent	Others Present
Chair James Brooks	P	Com. Dev. Director Colette Spranger
Ben Ladick, Vice Chair	P	City Administrator Jason Sergeant
Jon Alling	P	Bill Lathrop, Evansville Today
Abbey Barnes	P	
Sue Berg	P	
Brandon Rutz	P	

3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Barnes, seconded by Rutz, approved unanimously.

4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the August 15, 2022 meeting and approve them as printed by Rutz, seconded by Barnes, approved unanimously.

5. Civility Reminder. Brooks reminded the committee of the City’s commitments to civil discourse.

6. Citizen Appearances, other than listed agenda items. None

7. Monthly Report

A. Community Development Update. Spranger gave the report. Comprehensive Plan has been adopted. There have been inquiries by new businesses on the east and west side of the City. Dollar General is planning to be open by the end of month. She also plans to start maintaining the City’s available properties list in the absence of a director at the Chamber of Commerce.

B. Chamber of Commerce Report. No formal report. Barnes reports that the Chamber Board is putting together a job description in order to fill the vacant director position.

C. Tourism Commission Report. Tourism did not meet in September. A new mural is being installed later this month. Next mural will be a celebration of Evansville’s former circus. Walking Tour Guidebook is still being updated. Ladies Night Out is on September 23rd.
Next meeting is October 13th.

8. Discussion.

- A. Ideas for Revising the Building Improvement Grant.** Spranger explained that the original intention of the grant, to improve building facades in the B-2 zoning district (which correlates largely with the downtown), was more or less successful. Lately there has been little interest in the program. The current grant award is reimbursable up to \$1,200 when an applicant spends at least \$3,000 on their improvements. Members noted that the grant award doesn't go far. Spranger was tasked with researching what other communities do for these kinds of grants.
- B. Guide for New Businesses.** Spranger shared sample materials from neighboring communities regarding information pertinent to new businesses, noting that such a document would be a benefit to herself and others at City Hall who field calls from new businesses. The overall reaction was how to keep such a document from becoming out of date. Most members supported putting the document online and having a brochure-type document for reference. Spranger will bring back a prototype to a later committee date.

9. Next Meeting Dates: Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:00pm.

10. Motion to Adjourn by Berg, seconded by Rutz, approved unanimously.