

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2021 – Work Session

The work session meeting of Kirtland City Council commenced at 6:02 p.m. Council members present were: Scott Haymer, John Lesnick, Richard Lowery, Jeffrey Ruple, Matthew Schulz and Joseph Smolic. Absent: Kelly Wolfe.

Mayor Kevin Potter, Service Director Joseph Fornaro and Fire Chief Anthony Hutton were also in attendance. Law Director Matthew Lallo arrived later in the meeting.

Mayor Potter advised that Edward Eckart of North Shore Associates is present to provide an update to City Council.

Mr. Eckart said he has been reaching out to stakeholders and gathering information and ideas. He noted he and the Mayor have set up a schedule to have a discussion every other week.

Mr. Eckart stated his first call was with the Law Director to help him understand the tools the City has available, such as the CRA. He stated that he spoke with Cathy Walsh from the Small Business Development Center in Lake County, along with Allen Weaver, a lending specialist for the SBDC, to understand the assets the County has to offer businesses.

He noted that one of the themes that came up several times in his conversations with the Mayor and Councilman Lesnick relates to tourism. He met with Neil Stein of the Lake County Visitors Bureau to discuss Kirtland's role in tourism in Lake County and the Grand River Valley. He stated the importance of the Latter-day Saints in Kirtland and the new event barn, noting the need for additional lodging in Kirtland and in Lake County.

Mr. Eckart stated the Mayor has provided him with a few contacts that are in the process of locating in Kirtland, noting that he spoke with Jen Freeman of Richards Maple Products and reached out to Frank Wagner of Down the Block and Tom Christopher. He said he also spoke to Kirtland residents Jason Wuliger and Tim Cosgrove, and he noted the importance of a relationship with the School Board for any CRA and economic development activity that involves incentive packages.

Mr. Eckart stated that he has a meeting with Morris Beverage of Lakeland Community College this Friday, noting the importance of the College as a stakeholder when working on the comprehensive plan. He also noted that he plans to meet with Paul Palagyi of Lake Metroparks in December.

Mr. Eckart noted he had a telephone conversation with Sarah Bals, Director of the Lake County Development Council, regarding promotion of Lake County businesses. He noted they have an event on December 17, which he plans to attend.

He has had several conversations with the Economic Development Director for Mentor, Kevin Malecek, noting that, where appropriate, he would like to model their development packages and how they relay information to businesses.

With regard to emerging tasks and themes, Mr. Eckart stated that by the end of December he would like to establish a printed or digital package that outlines available incentives, other County

programs, points of contact, etc. He said he has a good amount of continued stakeholder outreach to be done.

With regard to common themes and objectives that emerge from the stakeholder discussions, Mr. Eckart stated he wants to form strategic input for the upcoming comprehensive plan. He noted the importance of knowing the five-year plans of Lakeland, the Metroparks and other facilities that are relevant to Kirtland. He noted that leveraging tourism is a theme he has heard repeatedly, for businesses that encourage longer stays. He noted that a goal will be turning the downtown area from an “artery” into a “destination”, stressing the need to create an identity. Mr. Eckart also addressed the Route 6 and Route 306 area as a second gateway. He noted there are resources that can be utilized, such as the Visitor’s Bureau.

Mr. Eckart suggested there be discussion in the near future regarding Business Improvement Districts and Special Improvement Districts.

Mr. Eckart mentioned execution of the comprehensive plan, noting that he will be looking into this further after another month of outreach.

There was discussion regarding the future use of the Kirtland Grange. It was noted that it is privately owned and currently for sale. Councilman Haymer noted there are some restrictions on use.

Discussion ensued regarding next steps to be taken and future challenges.

Council President Lowery thanked Mr. Eckart for his presentation. Noting that his City email account is up and running, Mr. Eckart provided Council with his contact information. Mayor Potter requested that he be copied on any emails sent to Mr. Eckart.

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Mr. Lesnick moved to convene an executive session to discuss appointment of a public official, contract negotiations, and pending and imminent litigation, pursuant to Article I, Section 7(a), 7(c) and 7(d) of the City Charter. Mr. Smolic provided the second. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 6/0 (VOTING YEA: LOWERY, RUPLE, SCHULZ, SMOLIC, HAYMER AND LESNICK. VOTING NAY: NONE).** The time was 6:30 p.m.

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Upon adjournment of the executive session, the work session meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m. There was no further discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. upon the unanimous consent of Council.

President of Council

Clerk of Council