

**HIGHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007**

The Highland Economic Development Commission (“EDC”, “Commission”) met for the first time on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at 6:35 PM for a Public Meeting in the Council Chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. The meeting was called to order by Town Manager, Rich Underkofler and minutes were recorded by Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro.

ROLL CALL:

Present on roll call included Commissioners David Beanblossom, Matthew Reardon, and George VandeWerken. Also in attendance was Town Council Vice President Joseph Wszolek, Redevelopment Commissioner Rich Garza, Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro, and Mr. Michael Lopez, a member of the public.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS:

This was the first meeting for the EDC.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Underkofler introduced members and others in attendance. He handed out the agenda, contact and term of service information, Ordinance No. 1324 of the Town of Highland which establishes the Economic Development Commission, and a portion of the Indiana Code which references Economic Development.

Commissioner Reardon provided information on the function and purpose of the Commission. He explained a number of tools available to the Commission including Industrial Development Bonds, Tax abatement, and Special Assessment Districts. He also answered questions regarding the differences between an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA), a Residentially Distressed Area (RDA), and an Economic Development Target Area (EDTA). These designations refer to the Tax Abatement tool. An ERA is a designation by the town and can include the entire town or any portion of the town. A town must have an ERA in order to create the Economic Development Target Area and a Residentially Distressed Area. RDAs allow tax abatement for residential areas and are limited to 15% of the jurisdiction’s land area. Economic Development Target Areas (EDTAs) allow tax abatements for commercial development and are limited to 10% of the jurisdiction’s land area. (This information was also provided by Cender and Company.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Election of officers

After discussion regarding a slate of officers, Commissioner VandeWerken nominated Matt Reardon for President, himself for Vice President, and Commissioner Beanblossom for Secretary. Commissioner Beanblossom seconded the motion. **The motion passed upon unanimous consent.**

COMMUNICATIONS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission members provided information about themselves and why they were interested in this appointment. Commissioner VandeWerken suggested that the Economic Development Commission hold joint meetings with the Redevelopment Commission when issues arise that impact both commissions. Commissioners agreed that this would be a good idea, and until that time, the EDC should have a liaison to the Redevelopment Commission. Commissioner Reardon made a motion to select Commissioner VandeWerken as an EDC Liaison to the Redevelopment Commission. Commissioner Beanblossom seconded the motion. **Motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Commissioners discussed times and days of the week for future meetings. Since the EDC does not meet regularly, Commissioners offered days and times that they would be available. All members could meet during normal business hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with at least two weeks notice.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CLAIMS: None

NEXT MEETING: Not established at this time

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 8:07 PM