

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH  
REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING OF MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Commission President Tim Owczarzak called the March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at Griffith Franklin Center, 201 N. Griffith Blvd., Griffith, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL**

Bob Kurtz, present  
Rick Leber, present  
Rich Miller, present  
Tim Owczarzak, present  
Don Wiltfong, present

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Tony Hobson, Economic Development Commission  
Jerry Potacki, Griffith Public Schools  
Rick Ryfa, Griffith Town Council  
Tom Wichlinski, Economic Development Commission

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commission member Bob Kurtz motioned to approve the minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes, seconded by Don Wiltfong. All in favor, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Commission President Tim Owczarzak motioned to approve one claim from Midwest Environmental in the amount of \$4,875.00 and two claims from Green & Kuchel totaling \$1,095.00. Don Wiltfong seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Rick Ryfa informed the commission that there is a client looking for a 200,000 s.f. building. This business would bring approximately 70-75 manufacturing jobs to town. Mr. Owczarzak suggested the Pactiv building at 300 W. Main Street. Mr. Ryfa will refer the prospective client to George Jerome.

Kevin Krippel of Wild Rose Brewery contacted Mr. Miller regarding a location for a microbrewery. Mr. Ryfa mentioned the vacant lots on the 100 block of south Broad Street, which is ready for development. Mr. Owczarzak asked Mr. Miller to invite Mr. Krippel to meet with the Redevelopment Commission.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Tim Owczarzak reported on the façade program. Bistro Ristorante submitted an application for HVAC in the south building. Mr. Rick Ryfa suggested that funding should be granted with the stipulation of a firm opening date. Mr. Owczarzak explained that the wording in the application does not require businesses to be open in order to receive funding. The state has also informed the owners that they will not receive an occupancy permit until both the north and south buildings are ready to be open at the same time.

Mr. Ryfa asked that the Redevelopment Commission be aggressive this year with the exterior façade program. CN funding will end December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Tony Hobson informed the Commission that there are 2 bars in town wanting to sell. Interested parties questioned Mr. Hobson if the Commercial Revitalization Program would be available to the new owner. Mr. Wichlinski explained that there is a 24-month time limit before the business is eligible to participate in the program a second time.

Tom Wichlinski reported the Pocket Billiard is waiting for carpet installation and expects to open mid-March.

Mr. Wichlinski explained that he has created a new application for exterior work completed outside the original downtown area, which is called the Griffith Revitalization Program. Mr. Wichlinski had the owner of the Ridge Road Car Wash submit the new application to Mr. Owczarzak for funding for the exterior remodel of the Ridge Road Car Wash.

Mr. Wichlinski received an email about an environmental business outside of Gary Airport looking to relocate. They are looking for approximately 15,000 s.f. with overhead doors.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Pending litigation was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Tim Owczarzak, President

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Tricia Kistler, Recording Secretary

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Robert Kurtz, Secretary

