

Minutes
Planning and Economic Development Committee
November 9, 2015
6:00 PM
4th committee meeting

Members present were Chairman Taft Matney, Committee members Terry Merritt and Scott Crosby. John Gardner, Economic Development Planner, George McLeer, Office of Cultural Affairs and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present,

1. Call to order- Chairman Matney
2. Public comment
3. Reading and approval of minutes- Councilman Crosby made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers
 - a. Economic Development- No progress on the Forrester Cove petition for annexation. Talks continue with the developer on the Corn and Miller Road project. Toole will be present at the council meeting to talk about the East Butler corridor. John has been asked to come back to the Connestee Foundation Board of Directors. A Japanese restaurant will go into the old Arby's. A company is looking at 1400 Old Stage Road for about 150 jobs. DOT should approve our encroachment permit for wayfinding signs very soon.

Councilman Merritt asked why there was no presentation for committee on the East Butler Road corridor project. Trey said those are normally done in the council meetings. Councilman Merritt said he was surprised on the DOT asking for resubmittal for lettering on the wayfinding signage.
 - b. Office of Cultural Affairs- Edwin McCain raised a little over \$7,000 for charity. The Public Art trail installation will be in by the end of the year. The art is assembled and will be sandblasted and painted. It weighs a little over 2000 pounds. Tree lighting is December 4th. The Christmas Parade will be December 5th.
5. Unfinished business

6. New business

- a. Public Relations- This company, MPA Strategies, will promote our city through media and social outlets. A draft proposal was given. We could start January 1st on this project. The current year budget could fund the \$10,800. Grant opportunities could also be identified city-wide. Chairman Matney said he would like for this to go to full council. Councilman Crosby made a motion to send this to council with Councilman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0). Councilman Merritt said he is concerned this will get diluted. He wants to make sure the campaign is focused on recreation. He said he would like to see some references on the company for recreation and sports center programs they have helped before. His support will be enhanced by knowing the sports center will be looked at. The membership needs to grow. Chairman Merritt said his goals are to turn those two programs around.

- b. East Butler corridor study- John Gardner reported there is a concern regarding East Butler Road widening and rights-of-way. Some options will be presented on Monday during the council meeting. No recommendations are anticipated at the Bridges Road/ Corn Road intersection. East Butler and Murray will be looked at due to worsening traffic congestion. They asked John to send around the report from Toole.

- c. Hollingsworth Property Annexation- The Foundation's agent approached the City for annexation of a 14 acre portion of a larger tract that is contiguous to the City. The location is ideal for staging concrete for paving and has been used for that purpose before. This will probably give \$100,000 in revenue from this project. First reading will take place at tonight's special called council meeting. Councilman Crosby made a motion to send this to council with a recommendation for annexation. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public comment

8. Committee concerns

9. Adjournment- Chairman Matney adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

NOTICE: A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting.