

MINUTES OF THE INCENTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall, 101 W. Broadway, Silver City, NM 88061
March 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Present:

Sherri Lyle, Chair
Robert Donnelly, Vice-Chair
Sherry Ann Clements
Annie Lessem

Also Present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director
Peter Russell, Community Development Director
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order - Vice-Chair Donnelly called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call - A roll call of the Committee was taken and a quorum was present. There is a vacancy for the member representing District 2. Councilor Aiman-Smith was present and participated in the discussions.

3. Changes to the Agenda - None.

4. Approval of the Minutes - February 12, 2014 Regular Meeting. Vice-Chair Donnelly asked for a motion. Ms. Clements moved to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2014 Regular Meeting. Ms. Lessem seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

5. Reports -

A. Town Manager - Mr. Brown stated CVS Pharmacy was coming to town. There was further discussion about several food vendors that were locating downtown.

B. Chair - Chair Lyle thanked Mr. Brown for having the city vehicles parked on the other side of Bullard Street instead of in front of her business.

6. Unfinished Business - None.

7. New Business -

A. Discuss examples of possible incentives and how it would be publicized. Mr. Brown said the possible incentives depended on the type of business and what they were looking for. He said sometimes they waived certain fees, helped with the infrastructure, or offset some of the relocation costs, as long as the benefit to the Town outweighed the expense. He said they could waive property taxes which were already the lowest in the state, and that New Mexico was the lowest in the country. He commented on how it was done with the solar array at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant with Industrial Revenue Bonds, etc. There was further discussion about why there was an Incentive Review Committee, what their role was, and when projects came to them for review. Mr. Brown gave examples that any property, any full cost infrastructure extension, or any financial support over \$10,000 would go to the committee. The members of the committee discussed how the committee wanted to focus on smaller things for small internal growth and that \$10,000 was too big of a threshold. Mr. Brown said if the committee was to make a recommendation to the Council, then it needed to be a big project and not small ones because he could make those internal decisions. He said the smaller events would not go through the process, and he described how he helped the Clay Festival get started by agreeing to sponsor them for the first 3 years and they would be required to be self-sufficient by the 4th year.

The committee members showed concern about what they were supposed to be doing and if the committee was just put in place to fill an ordinance obligation. Mr. Brown said yes, but maybe the committee could fulfill a different role by helping the community and businesses learn what the Town is doing for smaller things. Mr. Russell read the Town's Code, Chapter 16, Article II Economic Development Plan, Section 16-21 Purpose, and said it did not mean the committee could not do other things that were outside the process. There was further discussion and Mr. Brown said the committee could focus on helping the Town organize a strategy to promote what the Town does, and that he would be happy to have them as an advisory committee. Mr. Russell commented that there were a lot of economic development organizations in the town, plus state and federal agencies, and that maybe there could be some kind of coordination among them as a group. He said he did not know if there was a catalog of agencies already or if they could develop one, and that there was a real need for an ombudsperson to walk an applicant through the different processes. He said the Community Development Department could not be a regulator and also provide the ombudsperson. There was further discussion about how each economic development group had their own focus; how the committee could talk to them to learn each group's priorities and strategies, and then compare the differences; how it could be done with informal meetings with a moderator; and how social networks could be helpful. Mr. Brown told the committee that he was completely behind them going outside the boundaries of the ordinance. There was further discussion about inviting the other organizations to an informal meeting, and how the committee may want to start by first meeting with the County's Incentive Review Committee. Mr. Russell said he would provide them with the contact information of the board members of many of the economic development groups.

B. Discuss what constitutes normal business versus incentives. Chair Lyle stated the discussion for New Business Items A, B, and C were all included under New Business Item A.

C. Discuss how "doing business" changes when there is an Incentive Review Committee. Chair Lyle stated the discussion for New Business Items A, B, and C were all included under New Business Item A.

D. Schedule the next meeting and discuss agenda items for the next meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of April or April 9, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., and the committee said they wanted to discuss creating a network venue for all organizations that already existed so they could introduce themselves to the Incentive Review Committee. Mr. Russell said he would provide a list of organizations so they could network and obtain each of their mission statements before the next meeting.

8. Adjournment - Chair Lyle asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Donnelly moved to adjourn at 9:53 a.m. Ms. Lessem seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

/s/

Sherri Lyle, Chair

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk