



September 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Suite 1401. The following members were present: Julie Rohm (Chair), Gary Bockrath (Vice Chair), Michael Reyka (Secretary), Mike Fitzgerald, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, and Theresa Shank. Ex-Officio members in attendance included Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Hagerstown and the Honorable Gregory Snook, President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation. Excused absence was Jim Herbert. Not present were Hugh Breslin, Commissioners Terry Baker, John Barr and LeRoy Myers, Mayor Robert Bruchey and Council Member Emily Keller.

Staff in attendance included Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, James Jenkins, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Rob Slocum, and Linda Spence. Also in attendance were Commissioner Jeff Cline and Andy Bruns of the Herald Mail.

Call to Order – Julie Rohm called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda – Ed Lough motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for September 14, 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Reyka. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes – Gary Bockrath motioned to approve the meeting minutes for July 13, 2017. The motion was seconded by Andrew Loble. The motion was unanimously approved.

Elected Officials' Comments

- Commissioner Jeff Cline expressed appreciation to members of the EDC for their efforts to advance economic development efforts.

Herald-Mail Update – Presented by Andy Bruns, President and Publisher

- Family owned company, located in Hagerstown-Washington County, MD in 1960
- Hagerstown was the first investment outside of Indiana in 110 years
- Herald Mail has a diverse portfolio across multiple platforms and is increasing its digital reach
- Its Core footprint is Berkley, Franklin and Washington counties
- Goal is to help make Washington County the best place to live, work and play
- Suggested using graphs, charts, and personalization in media releases to appeal to a wider audience
- *Crossroad Business Journal* was created to highlight the business community

Work Team Reports

- A Work Team Brainstorming session was held on August 7
 - A second session will be held on September 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- City Center Work Team
 - There were no questions or comments.
- Economic Development Week Work Team
 - Economic Development Week is October 22-28, 2017.
 - EDC members were requested to be Ambassadors for business visits.

- A proclamation will be presented to the EDC/DBD one week prior the Economic Development Week by the Board of County Commissioners.

Staff Reports

- Kassie Lewis commented on the LEAN Manufacturing Peer Group

New Business

- The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc. cordially invites the EDC to attend a special Maryland Technology Development Corporation presentation on September 29 at Robinwood Medical Center at 7:30 a.m. More details to follow.

Old Business

- Jim Kercheval of Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc. will be asked to make give a presentation to the EDC regarding the *On Track* program at the October 12 meeting.

Closed Session Project Status Update – *Gary Bockrath motioned to go into Closed Session to consider a matter concerning the proposal of a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; or any personnel matters in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion was seconded by Theresa Shank. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Open Session – *On a motion made by Andrew Lobley to return to Open Session and seconded by Gary Bockrath, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Gary Bockrath, Jeff Cline, Mike Fitzgerald, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, James Jenkins, Kassie Lewis, Andrew Lobley, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Julie Rohm, Theresa Shank, Rob Slocum, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, and Jill Thompson*

Adjournment – *Andrew Lobley made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Gary Bockrath. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.*

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist for the
Washington County Department of Business Development,
and,
Recording Clerk for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission