

CITY OF STANDISH
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
JULY 9, 2019
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS-399 E BEAVER STREET
STANDISH, MI 48658

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Hillman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Denny Wiltse, DDA Member

Dennis Whitney, DDA Member

Kim Hadd, DDA Member

Amanda Pomaville, DDA Member

Abby Moniz, Vice Chairman

Curt Hillman, Chairman

Robert Wiltse, DDA Member

ABSENT

Kevin King, Mayor

Eric Richarson, DDA Member

ALSO PRESENT

Peggy Burtch, Clerk/Treasurer City of Standish , Jerry Nelson, City Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Parking signs were added to the agenda under Old Business

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Whitney and supported by Pomaville to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 regular DDA meeting as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Moved by Whitney and supported by D. Wiltse to accept the financial report as submitted. All yeas, motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2018/2019 DDA GRANT UPDATE

The Board was presented with paid receipts/check copies from Gateway Plaza North LLC for the 2018/2019 Grant cycle for payment. Hillman stated that he felt the Board should honor those grant awards for the 2018/2019 program.

Moved by D. Wiltse and supported by Moniz to approve the payment of \$5,000.00 to Gateway Plaza North LLC for the 2018/2019 grant award program. All yeas, the motion carried.

Board members discussed the legal opinion received from Broughton & Sprague Law Firm regarding the legality of the 2019/2020 Business Incentive Grant Program. B. Wiltse stated that he had spoken with Bob Stalker, a previous Township Manager for Oscoda Township, who told him that as long as the program benefited the community more than the individual, the DDA Grant program could be done. B. Wiltse stated that he felt the DDA should continue with the Business Incentive Grant Program.

B. Wiltse suggested that Bob Stalker be contacted and asked to submit a list some other communities that are using a grant program for the DDA to see how they administer it. Hillman agreed.

Nelson stated that the City has received two opinions from two city attorneys that state the practice of giving grants to businesses is both illegal and unconstitutional.

Whitney asked that Rowe Engineering be contacted for an opinion. Nelson stated he felt an opinion from a consultant and not an attorney would not be relevant.

B. Wiltse stated he felt the Business Incentive Grant Program was a good program and that the DDA should proceed with it.

After discussion, it was **Moved** by B. Wiltse to ask that Bob Stalker to submit an opinion regarding the legality of the Business Incentive Grant Program and to prepare a list of communities that currently are offering the same type of grant program. The motion was supported by Denny Wiltse. All yeas, the motion carried.

B. UPDATE- CHRISTMAS/ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Nelson reported that the City is still waiting for an estimate of cost for electrical installation on the Consumers Energy poles from Escon. Nelson stated he would estimate the cost to be between \$500.00 to \$1000.00 per pole.

Nelson also reported that the standard size of decorations that could be placed on the poles would be three (3) feet in length.

Hillman questioned the status of the City's Bucket Truck. Nelson stated that the estimate to repair the current bucket truck is \$15,610.00 and felt that the truck did not have the value to invest that much into it. Nelson stated that he has contact Mori Tree Service who is willing to allow the City to use his bucket truck. Nelson stated that it is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2019.

Hadd suggested that the DDA look into placing lights across US 23 through the DDA District instead of placing decorations on the poles. Nelson was asked to check to see how many poles along US 23 could be used.

Whitney asked that the Board consider paying for electrical work at the Depot that would allow the Depot to have lights on the back side of the building. Whitney stated that he has one estimate of approximately \$4000.00 to do the job. B. Wiltse felt that the Board should have at least three (3) estimates on the project before making a decision.

Whitney and Hillman also informed the Board that the Santa Train would again be stopping in the City on December 7, 2019 which is the first Saturday in December.

Moved by Whitney and supported by Hadd to request three (3) bids for electrical work at the Depot that would provide power to the rear of the building. All yeas, the motion carried. Hillman, citing a conflict of interest, abstained from the vote.

C. PUBLIC PARKING SIGNAGE

The Board discussed the placement of the 4th Public Parking sign. The Board directed that the Sign be placed on the grass facing north between N. Forest Street and the alley.

The Board also requested that the previous parking signs be lowered by at least one foot.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS – SCHEDULE DATES & TIMES

The 2019/2012 Informational Meeting will be held inconjunction with the August 13, 2019 Regular meeting and the December 10, 2019 Regular meeting.

B. WEBSITE DISCUSSION

The Board addressed the new requirement for the DDA to maintain a website on which required information can be placed throughout the year. Nelson stated that the DDA can have its own website or use the City of Standish website. Hillman stated at the present time, the DDA would like to use the City's website for the required postings.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to address

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before this Board, Moved by D. Wiltse and supported by R. Wiltse to adjourn at 2:05 p.m.



Peggy Burtch Clerk/Treasurer
City of Standish