



Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
Florissant City Hall Council Chambers
March 25th, 2021 at 9am

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37 Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
38 Florissant City Hall Council Chambers
39 March 25th, 2021 at 9am
40

41 The Economic Development Commission of the City of Florissant on Thursday, March
42 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

43
44 **Roll Call**

45 Travis Wilson, Economic Development Director called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m. On Roll
46 Call the following members were present: Rick Stevens, Dave Beckham, Joe Meyer, Tony Cancila, Kevin
47 Kelly, Gary Meyer, Mark Goldstein, Jessica Berchtold, Johnny Londoff Jr., and Venus Martz

48 Also present was Mayor Timothy Lowery and Travis Wilson, Economic Development Director.
49 A quorum being present the Economic Development Commission was in session for the transaction of
50 business.

51
52 **Mayor's Remarks**

53 Mayor Lowery thanked everyone for coming and explained the commission began meeting as a
54 business inclusion lunch and has been formalized into a regular meeting commission. The commission
55 will present members with an opportunity to share ideas without concern for how ideas are received by
56 the city. Members are encouraged to share such ideas. The Mayor will attend when needed, but not
57 regularly. Travis Wilson will be the Staff Liaison.

58
59 **Elections**

60 Joe Meyer volunteered as the Chair for the Economic Development Commission. Kevin Kelly
61 made a motion to accept Joe Meyer as the Chair for the Economic Development Commission, seconded
62 by Gary Meyer. Motion carried.

63 Jessica Berchtold volunteered as the Vice Chair for the Economic Development Commission.
64 Venus Martz made a motion to accept Jessica Berchtold as the Vice Chair for the Economic
65 Development Commission, seconded by Mark Goldstein. Motion carried.

66
67 **Director's Report**

68 Travis Wilson provided a report (attached) on the status Florissant regarding various topics.
69 Mayor Lowery stated Ross Dress for Less has started demolition on the interior portion of the building,
70 the company is awaiting the purchasing contract with Cross Keys for the business to open.

71 **Open Discussion**

72 Meeting Date

73 Travis Wilson confirmed the 4th Thursday of every month at 9a.m. will be the meeting time for
74 the Economic Development Commission. Venus Martz and Johnny Londoff, Jr. stated they would like
75 meetings to remain in the mornings at or after 9a.m.

76 Field Trips

77 Travis Wilson stated interested in holding various trips to the surrounding areas of Florissant for
78 research on their economic development. Mayor Lowery spoke about a previous visit to Kirkwood.
79 Jessica Berchtold agreed trips to various surrounding municipalities could be helpful.

80 Business Hosting

81 Travis Wilson stated any business owners present and interested in hosting a meeting one month
82 should reach out to him via email or phone.

83 Staggered Terms

84 Travis Wilson informed members terms were staggered due to the ordinance written for the first
85 few years of the commission. 4 members were picked to serve each of the following terms: 1 year, 2
86 years, or 3 years. Any members interested in continuing to serve were encouraged by Travis to reach
87 out and confirm interest to be reappointed.

88 American Rescue Plan Act

89 Rick Stevens requested to know if funds are available for economic development from the
90 Federal Government. Mayor Lowery stated exploratory meetings are being held and money is being set
91 aside for economic development. Rick Stevens stated the infrastructure in Florissant is important and
92 many residents do not have access to wireless networks or computers. Travis Wilson informed the
93 commission of a possible economic development sales tax to be passed in the future. He stated multiple
94 municipalities in the St. Louis region have the sales tax and could produce over \$2.5 million annually.
95 Mr. Wilson continued the sales tax could create an option for a small business loan option through the
96 city. Mayor Lowery added the Pools at Koch Park and Bangert need to be addressed first, but require
97 too much improvement and too much cost to keep them functioning as they stand.

98 270 Project

99 Johnny Londoff, Jr. remarked the project is making a huge difference and has needed repair for
100 25 to 30 years with MoDOT and Millstone Weber working hard to complete the project in a timely
101 manner.

102

103

104 141 Extension

105 Travis Wilson stated he is working on an appeal to the Federal Government which would
106 require a levee to be built and open a large area for development. Kevin Kelly noted Mayor Robert
107 Lowery tried to push for the extension for years.

108 Ribbon Cutting on Inclusive Playground

109 Mayor Lowery stated the inclusive playground is set to hold a ribbon cutting on April 7th and
110 the playground should open in August 2021.

111 Business Licenses

112 Dave Beckham requested more information regarding the average number of business licenses
113 approved in the last year and how many are declined and approved. Mayor Lowery noted not many are
114 declined and the average number will have to be retrieved from the business license department. Mark
115 Goldstein noted many in-home businesses do not have business licenses but should if the business is
116 conducted out of the home and reaches a high threshold. Mayor Lowery added sales tax in 2020
117 decreased by 25% due to COVID-19 and big businesses were able to survive, but small business took a
118 big hit. Travis Wilson noted about 80 businesses were terminated since the Florissant fiscal year began
119 on December 1, 2020. He noted about 60 of those business licenses closed due to a change of
120 ownership.

121 Koch and Bangert Pools

122 Tony Cancila asked how long Bangert could remain functional. Mayor Lowery noted about 3 –
123 5 years and new aquatic center could be located in Koch or Eagan parks. He stated Koch Park was the
124 best option for space, but it is not in the center of town which would be preferable. Joe Meyer asked if
125 there are other activities that could attract families more than pools. Mayor Lowery stated the Parks
126 Department is working on hiring a new superintendent who can bring in new ideas since a change is
127 needed. He noted the parks aren't being used like they should and mentioned the Golf Course held a St.
128 Patrick's Day event which brought in 99 golfers on a day which would usually be slow.

129

130 Conclusion

131 Venus Martz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jessica Berchtold. Motion carried.
132 Meeting adjourned at 10:06a.m.

133

134

Savanna B Burton

135

Savanna B Burton, Deputy City Clerk