

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AND POLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE CITY OF POLO HELD IN THE CITY HALL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 115 S.
FRANKLIN AVE., POLO, ILLINOIS, JANUARY 15, 2018.**

A. Introductions –Roger Hopkins – Manheim Solutions and Hopkins Solutions

Roger Hopkins is the president of Hopkins Solutions LLC. He has worked in Northern Illinois for the last 30 years. He is part of Manheim Solutions with Chris Manheim. Chris Manheim is the head of Manheim Solutions.

B. Ogle County Consulting Agreement with Manheim Solutions using Chris Manheim and Roger Hopkins as economic development consultants executed 12-1-17 – attached – Objective: Organize a public private partnership for Ogle County and participating communities by 2019; options for Structure of Economic Development Public Private Partnership

The goal of the contract with Ogle County is to develop a relationship with the five cities that are on board with the contract within the next year. The objective is to create a basis for a non-for-profit organization for economic development and have the City operate that program locally. Roger Hopkins suggested to find someone who is retired who can operate that role.

C. Review economic development capacity – infrastructure, zoning, responsiveness, decision-making, incentives policy and programs, contacts – key is predictability and consistency

Roger Hopkins would like to meet with the City's consulting engineers. He would also like it if maps of the city's water and sewer lines could get posted along with their capacity limits.

D. Monthly Reporting to County and Municipalities – establish point of contact for decisions; dates of municipal economic development committees and meetings

We would need the City of Polo to send a monthly report to the county chairman about what has been done. The county treasurer will bill the municipalities monthly. Roger Hopkins will track our existing business and encourage our local businesses to expand.

E. Review and list County and Municipal Priorities: (Economic Development element of Comprehensive Plan):

The City of Polo's top priorities are a grocery store, senior living, and bringing families to Polo to support our school district. There are a lot of internet options available for our small area thanks to the fiber optic cables on Rt. 26 and Freeport Rd. Roger Hopkins suggested filling our vacant buildings and bring in some sort of industrial

business.

F. Review participation in Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone

Oregon has 100 acres in the Lee Ogle Enterprise zone. Mt. Morris is working on an application to put in some acres in the Lee Ogle Enterprise zone. There are incentives to the Enterprise zone such as Property Tax, Sales Tax Abatement, and Investment Tax credit for expansion projects. Polo Economic Development has met with Bocker Ruff regarding the Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone and would like to get the Bocker Ruff area into the Enterprise Zone. Bocker Ruff is willing to work with PEDC and the City of Polo to get that area in the Enterprise Zone. Greg Cross said that he is working with Nicor. Nicor is doing a feasibility study to get the cost estimate to get gas in the Bocker Ruff area. That would benefit Bocker Ruff and possibly any new businesses that would like to be in that area.

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Schoon made a motion to adjourn the special City Council and Polo Economic Development Committee meeting at 7:01 pm, seconded by Alderman Boothe. Ayes 6, nays 0. The motion carried.

ATTEST: _____

MAYOR: _____

CITY CLERK: _____

(SEAL)