

## **POLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The July 18, 2019 meeting of the Polo Economic Development Corporation was held at Polo City Hall. Susie Corbitt opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Members present were Mark Scholl, Susie Corbitt, Betty Obendorf, Don Vock and Louise Hall. Also present was Mayor Doug Knapp.

Absent: Sydney Bartelt, Mike Faivre, Jim Cole, Josh Faivre, Andy Faivre and Greg Cross.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTORS:**

None.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 9, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:**

Betty Obendorf made a motion to approve the May 9, 2019 PEDC meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Louise Hall.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY & JUNE 2019 TREASURER'S REPORTS:**

Mark Scholl made a motion to accept the May & June 2019 treasurer's report for the general checking with an ending balance of \$2,414 and the revolving fund account with an ending balance of \$31,003.73 as presented, seconded by Donnie Vock. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

At this time Mr. Doug Carlson owner of D & C Computers in Dixon and Dan Massey of Northern Illinois TV in Polo gave a presentation concerning better internet service in our rural area. The only real competition D & C Computers has in our area is with Rise Broadband and reported there are some connection ability and speed issues with Rise Broadband. The City of Polo has a contract with Rise Broadband for all their antennae on the city's water tower. The city does receive free internet service at 7 city locations with this contract. The sewer station has weak connections due to the trees blocking the view to the water tower. D & C Computers has high-speed internet on several towers all around Polo with a total of 40 towers in their service area. Polo is fed from their Woosung tower. Their flat rate is \$49 with no fees or taxes and you can stream three different programs at one time. There is a one time \$100 set up charge with no contract and no penalty if you cancel. Their network is expanding to Rockford and Mendota. Mr. Carlson has asked the City Council if Rise Broadband can release some of their restrictions on their contract with the City to allow them to put antennas on the city water tower. The City Attorney feels there may be a way around the contract. If this does not work, they are looking for a higher point in Polo so they can get over the tree lines. Mr. Massey reported that he has been working with Mr. Carlson and would receive bill payments in his Polo office for the convenience of the Polo area customers. Discussion held as to what exactly Mr. Carlson wants from this organization. They need to place several more towers in the area. Mr. Massey stated due to all the trees they need a higher location and that one at the westside park area would do well. The cost would be \$8,000 to \$10,000. Donnie Vock suggested that maybe they look at a low interest loan from the PEDC. Mr. Massey stated the first step would be getting the property to place the

tower on. Susie Corbitt suggested they also go to the Polo Chamber of Commerce and make a presentation as they would be involved with a loan since most of this money is theirs. She also suggested they become a member of the Polo Chamber of Commerce and possibly host an After Hours. Dan Massey stated he has the space to host for D & C Computers.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Discussion on Affordable Housing.**

Mayor Knapp reported he was approached by Stan Weber concerning vacating the unimproved street platted to the north off of his property on South Barber Avenue. Mr. Weber owns the empty lot behind his house or west of it, which is platted into six lots. Mayor Knapp spoke with Mark Ebert and Jim Busser who might consider building there rather than have a developer to save money. Discussion was held that the city might run the sewer there as an incentive for maybe young homeowners. Susie Corbitt stated that if a developer has the entire platted area than it is their responsibility to put the streets in, questioning how this would work with individual contractors instead of a developer. Mayor Knapp stated he did not realize this. Mayor Knapp also reported he has had discussions with Mr. Ebert and Busser concerning the Dave Sherrick property on the northwest section on town, south of Dixon Street and west of Maple Avenue.

##### **B. Discussion on Pharmacy.**

Susie Corbitt reported the DEA has given their approval and that currently the pharmacist is working with the insurance companies, with hopefully being open after Labor Day. Today there was a Facebook page showing the Hallmark card section is completed in the building.

##### **C. PEDC & Polo Chamber of Commerce Business Interviews/Chamber of Commerce July Board of Directors Meeting.**

No report.

##### **D. Discussion on Casey's General Store.**

Susie Corbitt reported she has been in contact with Casey's General Store with the person who makes all the real estate transactions and also Casey's Corporation. She was informed that with our new governor and the new taxes imposed especially the gas and cigarette taxes that they will not be building in Illinois at any new locations. They still have three years on the books of location that have been purchased in Illinois that may be constructed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Discussion on SWOT Analyzes.**

Discussion held to wait until Kate O'Connor can be present this fall to work on this.

##### **B. Report on the Succession Planning.**

Susie Corbitt reported she spoke with Norma Trotter due to they have been trying to sell Country Floral. She suggested that maybe the Chamber if they would be willing to advertise on their website and that Norma contact the Small Business Bureau at Sauk Valley College for assistance.

**C. Report on the City of Polo Marketing Strategies.**

Donnie Vock reported that there is a group of young Polo adults who may be interested in revising our business district, but it is out a way before they will be ready. Mark Scholl also stated that this is a good possibility he has been in discussions with.

**D. Discussion on Dave's Coffee Cakes Sales at Autumn on Parade.**

Donnie Vock stated we will start working on this at next months meeting.

**E. Presentation by D & C Computers.**

Discussion was moved to the beginning of the meeting with verbal consent of those present.

**F. Economic Development Boot Camp by ComEd on 8/15/19.**

Susie Corbitt presented the agenda for this boot camp to take place on 8/15 from 8-11am at Nash Recreation Center put on by ComEd. There will be an Ogle County Economic update, State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities and INSECT Illinois will give presentations. Henry Pierce, Economic Development manager for ComEd, Tom Hutchinson, NICOR Gas Community Affairs and Mark Thorson, NIU Executive Director of Regional Technology Services will give a presentation on the utility perspectives. Susie asked that she not be the only one attending, so if anyone can be present please do so.

**G. Economic Development Workshop at Nash on 8/27/19.**

The Ogle County Public Private Partnership Economic Development workshop will be held at Nash Recreation Center on August 27, from 8a.m. to 1p.m. There will be focus groups on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in our region. Daniel Payette from Blackhawk Hill Regional Council will present a summary of the current conditions from the CEDS Plan and identification of County economic development objectives. Chris Manheim and Roger Hopkins will also be speakers. Again, it was suggested we have a few people in attendance.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Louise Hall made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by Betty Obendorf. The motion carried without dissent.

**The next meeting of the PEDC will be held August 15, 2019 at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Susie Corbitt  
PEDC President