

# POLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The February 20, 2020 meeting of the Polo Economic Development Corporation was held at Polo City Hall. President Susie Corbitt opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Susie Corbitt, Sydney Bartelt, Josh Faivre, Andy Faivre, Louise Hall, Dustin Vock, and Mark Scholl. Also, present was Mayor Douglas Knapp.

Absent: Betty Obendorf, Don Vock, Greg Cross, Mike Faivre and Tracey DeCrane.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTORS:**

Mark Scholl made a motion to appoint Brad Ohlwine to the board of directors, seconded by Andy Faivre. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

Tracey Decrane sent a letter of resignation. Josh Faivre made a motion to accept Tracey Decrane's resignation seconded by Andy Faivre. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

## **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 16, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:**

Andy Faivre made a motion to accept the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Scholl. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

## **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2020 TREASURER'S REPORTS:**

Mark Scholl made a motion to accept the January 2020 treasurer's report as presented and the revolving fund account as presented, seconded by Louise Hall. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

None.

#### **B. Report of Chamber of Commerce February Board Meeting.**

Josh Faivre reported that there are two open spots on the Chamber board. Josh informed the board about the loan for Lighthouse Sweets.

#### **C. Discussion on SWOT Analyzes.**

None.

#### **D. Discussion on Succession Planning.**

None.

#### **E. Discussion on City of Polo Marketing Strategies.**

Kate O'Connor would like to create some sort of magazine to help sell the City of Polo. Susie Corbitt brought in the Village of Forrester's magazine that was just released. Kate is wondering if she could work with high school students to update the City of Polo's website. Kate would also like to go to the Chamber board meeting to talk with them.

#### **F. Discussion on A Possible Dog Park.**

Susie talked with Ogle County and they said the sewer plant is zoned R-2. Parks are allowed in R-1 & R-2 per the City of Polo's City Ordinances.

#### **G. Discussion on City Installation of Water & Sewer For Residential Housing Development.**

Mayor Knapp stated that Alderman Schoon is still waiting on figures from Willett Hofmann & Associates for the installation of water and sewer lines for new construction. Mayor Knapp would like to have three different builders commit to building 3 homes in the Meadows Subdivision.

#### **H. Discussion on High Speed Internet.**

Sydney Bartelt stated that the City of Polo is currently in discussions with Rise Broadband regarding their contract which

allows them to be on top of our City water tower. The City Council would like to limit the amount of equipment Rise Broadband has on top of the tower. They would also like the non-compete clause removed to allow a competitor to go on top of the water tower. The City has asked attorney Suits to write a letter to Rise Broadband with their demands and if Rise Broadband does not comply to terminate the contract. This would then not allow a competitor on the water tower for 12 months due to the non-compete clause. Doug Carlson from DC Computers is the interested party who would like to be on the City's water tower. He stated that by next year he plans on rolling out 5G internet.

**I. Discussion on Kate O'Connor's Possible PCHS Volunteer Program.**

Kate O'Connor passed out handouts to the PEDC. She recommends updating the [www.poloil.org](http://www.poloil.org) website. She would like to have some energy put into our town site. It needs more photographs and beauty shots of our town. It also needs two separate paths; one for visitors and one for citizens. It would be nice to partner with PCHS and/or Whiteside to redesign the site. Kate suggested for organizations to create wish lists of possible programs, projects, or equipment needed that volunteer groups or students needing volunteer hours could assist with.

**J. Discussion on Economic Growth Corporation For Possible Grants.**

Susie did go to the Senior Center and spoke with the board of directors there. She asked if their monthly newsletter will have snippets of the grant programs. The Senior Center will also put it on their electronic sign. She also met with the Council of Churches. The Council of Churches asked Susie to come to each church to give a presentation. She met with Crossroads recently. They will put it in their e-newsletter. Right now, Economic Growth Corporation's processing and approval takes 3-4 months. That is why they like to have enough applications to have a wait list. When they reach a certain point in the year when the "process" takes too long and they cannot accept any more applications (for that year) even if they have more funds to spend. In an ideal scenario they'd have a wait list and select participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months of the year then have them all approved and construction going during the summer so no one is living through construction during winter. One common hurdle they have run into several times is home owner's insurance. Often people let it lapse to save money but equally as often insurance companies have dropped the homeowner due to the condition of the home. They cannot get anyone approved by the state if they don't have active home owner's insurance.

Dustin Vock gave a presentation about the grant programs at the Lion's Club and asked Lion's members to let people know who order groceries through the Lions Club delivery.

**K. Discussion on Buffalo Creek Subdivision.**

The Buffalo Creek Subdivision replotting was presented to the City Council. The City Council would like to have the City engineer's opinion/recommendation about the replotting before deciding.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Discussion on Lighthouse Sweets.**

Lighthouse Sweets is hoping to open the first weekend in March. They have their hood and fryer unit; they are having a hard time getting an electrician.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Dustin Vock has started a new business along with Kreider Services. Kreider Services will provide labor and staffing. Dustin has purchased retail returns from Amazon. He is splitting the profit 50/50 with Kreider. Dustin Vock hopes that if it is successful, he will hopefully open a retail location in the area.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Dustin Vock made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm, seconded by Josh Faivre. The motion carried without dissent.

**The next meeting of the PEDC will be held March 19, 2020 at 7:00pm.**

Sydney Bartelt  
Secretary/Treasurer