



LINDSAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Lindsay Council Chambers
251 E Honolulu St., Lindsay CA 93247

Thursday, January 23, 2025
3:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Proper notice of this meeting was given pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 and 54956.

STAFF AND COUNCIL PRESENT: Councilmember Nave, City Manager Daymon Qualls, City Clerk Maegan Peton, Acting City Services Director Ryan Heinks,

3:30 p.m. – REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Maegan Peton called to order the regular meeting of the Lindsay Economic Development Committee Meeting at 3:33 p.m. in the Council Chamber located at 251 E. Honolulu St.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Manager Daymon Qualls.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Matthew Mingrone
Jonathan Roque
Henry Villanueva
Guadalupe Vasquez

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was motioned by Member Villanueva, seconded by Member Mingrone, and carried 4 to 0 to approve the agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Estaban Solis, Lindsay Chamber of Commerce Representative, introduced himself and offered the Chamber as a resource for the Committee.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Welcome and Introductions

- Brief introduction of Committee Members, key City staff, and Council representatives.

Members and staff introduced themselves and provided their background.

6.2 Committee Structure and Responsibilities

- Appoint a member of the Committee to be the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Subcommittee formation (if needed)
- Regular meeting schedule and communication channels

It was motioned by Member Roque, seconded by Member Vasquez, and carried 4 to 0 to select Member Villanueva as the Committee Chair.

Further, it was motioned by Member Roque, seconded by Chair Villanueva, and carried 4 to 0 to select Member Mingrone as the Vice Chair.

Members provided consensus to hold future meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m.

6.3 Review of Goals and Objectives

- **Discuss the overall goals of the Committee with a focus on:**
 - Defining the “downtown area”
 - Defining the vision for revitalizing and developing/redeveloping the downtown area
 - Identifying key priorities and strategies for economic growth
 - Establishing timelines and milestones for the committee’s work

City Manager Qualls provided background information on previous discussions surrounding economic development.

6.4 Current State Assessment

- **Presentation on the current state of the downtown area:**
 - Economic trends, challenges and opportunities
 - Existing businesses and their concerns/needs

Chair Villanueva provided direction to staff to see if Council would allow 284 Hermosa to be occupied by other nonprofit organizations if CSET or Self-Help were not interested.

Chair Villanueva asked about what the impacts on the water supply would be if Kristar purchases the property at the Southeast corner of Honolulu and Elmwood as proposed to Council. Staff advised that a Site Plan Review would be conducted prior to ensure there could be adequate water supply along with Public Safety requirements.

The Committee provided that it would be advisable to strategize on vacant properties downtown with the Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee directed staff to post the Small Business Development Center information and the Chamber of Commerce resources on the City’s website.

6.5 Action Planning

- **Brainstorming session on immediate next steps**
 - Priority areas for initial focus
 - Assigning responsibilities and setting deadlines
 - Securing necessary resources and support from the City
 - Downtown Cleanup Day
 - Downtown Serve Day

The Committee requested an update at the next meeting with information as to who the owners and occupants are of the downtown area, specifically vacant or frequently closed businesses. Staff concurred.

Staff advised that Code Enforcement would reach out to assist out-of-code businesses before issuing violations in order to help get the downtown area cleaned up.

Member Vasquez advised staff to look into grants to assist downtown areas. Staff agreed and would also touch base with the City of Woodlake who has had success in that area. The Committee also advised that eminent domain may be helpful for vacant properties.

6.6 Public Input and Community Engagement

- **Discuss strategies for involving the community in the revitalization efforts:**
 - Public forums, surveys, and outreach programs
 - Engaging with residents, businesses, and stakeholders
 - Building Consensus and support for proposed initiatives

The Committee advised staff that it may be beneficial to meet with local service groups and organizations to get information and recommendations from them as to what they believe would be beneficial for Lindsay.

The Committee and staff agreed that it may also be beneficial to conduct a survey to get further recommendations for improvements to the downtown area. The survey would be sent out via utility mailers, social media, through service groups, and the Chamber of Commerce.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Henry Villanueva, Chair

ATTEST:

Maegan Peton, City Clerk

The next Regular Meeting of the Lindsay Economic Development Committee is scheduled to be held on February 11, 2025.