

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2016

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on August 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Mark Stoudt, John Stone, Charles Sheridan, Thomas Haerberle and Katie Troccoli. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, David Noble and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from July 15, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by John Stone and second by Thomas Haerberle.

TREASURERS REPORT

Katie Troccoli provided bank statements and account balances (\$236.39 checking, \$10,048.93 in money market). Her financial report was approved on motion of William Franklin, Jr, second by John Stone and a unanimous oral vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

A mailing was received from the Ottawa Youth Football League looking for sponsors.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer discussed many updates in property located in the city. Both the Woolworth and the Main Street Café buildings have been sold. Mary Olson of Rock Paper Scissors store is leasing to the Book Mouse store and looking to purchase a building to open a larger bookstore. Work is being completed at Clinton and Main Street. A new Verizon company store will be locating in the North side area that housed the former Shell gas station. The Gailey Eye Clinic is expected to move to the previous Walmart location. Adagio Dance is looking for 10,000 square feet of space. The Results Company out of Streator is looking for an Ottawa site to use for recruitment purposes. The city received an inquiry from a Washington, D.C. company looking to open call center. Boyd advised that he had received a request from a manufacturing company looking for a potential distribution center site (which would include an office complex and building) near the I80/I39 corridor. They have requested EAV information for properties in the desired area. The building which housed the Wide Water Gallery may become available. The recreation center task force has completed their feasibility report. The potential facility has an estimated cost of about \$18,000,000.00. Boyd noted upcoming dates: State of City November 10, Annual Ottawa Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 13, and an Enbridge Task Force meeting is set for September 20.

Reed reported that Ivan Baker is the newly appointed CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of North Central Illinois. The City has a potential purchaser of the Little City site. There have been no bids for the Fulton Street property. The Court Street property has a pending sales contract. The senior house project is still active and searching for a site in the downtown area. The Woolworth building will likely be renovated to make more of the building accessible. Tangled Roots is looking for a commercial brewing site near Route 71 and the Dayton Bluffs Nature Preserve. Reed commented on the efforts to revive the Starved Rock

banding project. CVS is working on an Ottawa site and a Plan Commission hearing has been scheduled. Holiday Inn is looking at a site near RP Lumber. Heritage Harbor has several possible upcoming projects.

Dave Noble reported on new bump outs projects. The proposed improvements to LaSalle Street should soon commence. David commented that he expects clean-up of the Central School coal site by traditional dig up and removal of contaminated soil. Novak veterinary will be moving to a site near the south side medical clinic. Kroger is repaving their parking lot. River Rescue has purchased land for their future home base. David commented on the City's efforts to confront the housing blight arising from numerous home sitting empty for many years. Dave further discussed the problem of multiple downtown buildings having failing roofs. The City may begin inspecting roofs. John Stone questioned if the building facade program might be expanded to include roof repairs. David, Charles and John commented on rail issues and potential rail improvements in and around Ottawa.

MEMBER REPORTS

Katie discussed the need for updates to take place to the website, including correction of member names and current agenda and minutes. Katie will contact Diane Stelken, who maintains the website. Several members still expressed hope that the Port District can be incorporated into an updated City of Ottawa website.

Charles discussed costs associated with a stand along parking facility. He estimated that a facility with about 500 parking slots would have a cost of \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per slot not including the real estate.

John discussed the need for a pedestrian overpass bridge over I80. Dave Noble commented that the City is looking at possible grants for such a project that likely carries a cost of about \$2,200,000.00.

ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:55 a.m. upon motion of John Stone and second by William Franklin, Jr. and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be September 16, 2016.