

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 21, 2017

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on July 21, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Thomas Haeberle, Katie Troccoli, John Stone and Charles Sheridan. Also present were Reed Wilson, Mike Sutfin, David Noble, and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from April 21, 2017 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Thomas Haeberle.

COMMUNICATIONS

An invitation to the Riverfest Welcomeburger picnic was received.

TREASURERS REPORT

The financial report was presented by Katie Troccoli, with \$394.39 in checking and \$9,054.14 in cd. The financial report was approved on motion by Charles Sheridan and second by William Franklin Jr.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer provided an intro to BEST/Business Employment Skills Team, a non-profit agency that administers federally-funded programs. Boyd also provided an economic update on recent developments in the area. The Dental Lab is looking for a building expansion. A Chinese firm is seeking a manufacturing facility location to make windshields for various companies. Boyd also discussed an inquiry about someone seeking a site for distribution facility. Dollar General would like to build a new larger store on the South side. Family Video has moved near Kroger. The Gaily Eye Clinic will be opening on the North side. The CVS project is progressing. Construction of a 25,000 square foot medical building with retail space on Columbus Street should begin this fall. A Mess of Things retain store has taken over the former Fast Print. Finally, the City is working on a new website focusing on economic development.

Reed Wilson provided updates on other properties and businesses within the city: Kristine's Shower opened in the former computer shop near the corner of LaSalle and Mail streets. Juniper and Mae has opened an expansion from their shop in Princeton at 721 LaSalle Street in Ottawa. Walking Thyme, a retail shop, will open in the former Row House building. Progress continues in restoring a use for the former Walmart facility. Papa Johns reopened. Tangled Roots is bottling beer and has a Friday night concert series in the park. Tickets for wine fest were down slightly from last year.

The EDC website is open and marketing is underway. Work on a Jackson Street plaza continues as do plans for re-watering of a portion of the I&M Canal.

MEMBER REPORTS

Discussion was held about need for and location of additional downtown parking. Discussion took place about City's use of former CDAP funds. Some funds will continue to held for former CDAP related purposes including low cost loans. Increases in employment remain an element of the loan program. Discussion took place about the potential of a phone app and/or signage that would alert motorists of highway blockages due to railroad operations.

## OLD BUSINESS

David Noble gave an update on construction of Columbus Street as to bump-outs, sidewalk improvements and lighting. The project has been slowed by state budget issues. He also spoke on the city's quest to pursue vacant buildings, and spoke about the city's involvement in the upcoming Brownsfield Conference at Starved Rock Lodge on October 18 on the topic of dealing with abandoned properties that are impeding a community's growth. Dave also reported that the city is expanding their sewer lines past Route 71, which will open that corridor up for development. The City is ending their ownership and relationship with the Reddick Mansion. The City continues to work with IDOT for a Route 80 pedestrian crossway. The Central School project is slow as is consideration of a possible new Fox River bridge.

David led discussion about reducing traffic congestion in town caused by train traffic and switching operations. The respective rail companies are working on concept plans and costs estimates as discussed at prior Port District meetings. It is imperative to identify critical highway segments, including portions of Route 23, as freight corridors.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

A public hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinance was held. The budget and appropriation ordinance was approved on motion by William Franklin, second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote.

### Annual Treasurer's Report

The Annual Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The report was adopted on motion of Charles Sheridan, second by Katie Troccoli and unanimous oral vote.

### Annual Prevailing Wage

The board reviewed an Annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance which adopts the Illinois Department of Labor prevailing wage rates for LaSalle County. The ordinance was approved on motion of Thomas Haeberle, second by Katie Troccoli and unanimous oral vote.

## ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30 a.m. upon motion of William Franklin, Jr. and second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote. The upcoming meetings of the district will be October 20, 2017 and January 19, 2018.