

On November 8, 2024, an Economic Development Plan Review Committee Meeting of the Minot Appointed Committee - Alcohol Ordinance Review & Rewrite Committee was held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW). Chairman Mike Blessum called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mike Blessum, Beth Feldner, Justin Hammer, Melinda Howe, Tyler Neether, Jordan Nelson, Paul Pitner

Members Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Blessum led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

The committee provided each other and the public with introductions.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Blessum did an overview of the process for the Economic Development Plan Review Committee. This committee is made up of two City Council members and 5 members appointed by Mayor Ross. The committee is advisory in nature and will provide recommendations to the City Council. The purpose would be to provide direction to staff and community partners on economic development.

Chairman Blessum discussed his thoughts on the low tax and low regulation environment he would like to see. The process should be driven by data to prove the process is working. He would like the committee members to think about how this is people's money we are working with. In 2025, \$2.1 million in sales tax funding has been set aside for economic development. He hopes to see the committee ready to send recommendations to the City Council in the spring of 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS

SOURIS BASIN PLANNING COUNCIL

Briselda presented to the committee about Souris Basin Planning Council. SBPC exists under the ND Century Code and is a regional council. She discussed their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Under CEDS, there are 4 points including economy, workforce, community vitality, and leadership and capacity building.

Souris Basin Planning Council supports small businesses with the following funds:

1. Business Accelerator Fund
2. Impact Fund
3. Resiliency Fund

The Business Accelerator Fund is a revolving loan fund, which leverages funding from the Bank of ND. The City of Minot provides a 35% local match of the total interest buy down on the loan. The business using these funds for the low interest buy down program makes a balloon payment at the end of the interest buy down term of the loan.

ND COMMERCE

Rich Garman, Director of Economic Development and Finance, discussed ND Commerce and what commerce is:

1. Tourism & Marketing
2. Community Services
3. Workforce
4. Economic Development & Finance

ND Incentives:

- Primary Sector - Bring new wealth into the State of ND.
- Bank of ND - The only state-owned and operated bank.
- ND Development Fund
 - Venture

- Advance ND - A fund to be used to close a deal and done in the form of a loan.
- Automate ND - Encourages existing manufacturers to look at their processes and automate when possible.
- Innovate ND
- LIFT
- Other Programs - NDDOT, Water Commission, Ag, CSEA, REC

ND Commerce looks at programming and projects by measuring and looking at:

- Value Add
- Value Proposition (Revenue)
- Diversification of Sectors
- Workforce
- Unfair Competitive Advantages
- Site Readiness
- Community Readiness

Rich answered questions about the natural gas pipeline and how ND Commerce fits into the conversation. He also mentioned possible upcoming projects and how the RFP goes out to all agencies/areas. Discussed how his job is to sell ND to bring in reputable companies into the state of ND.

Maria Effertz, Director of Community Development and Rural Prosperity, discussed their statewide targeted outcomes. She highlighted their outreach and grants her division has participated in for 2023-24. She presented different goals and outcomes for communities of the future for growth and economic development. Maria looks to see how economic development programs can provide communities a return on investment.

The committee hopes to bring in someone from ND Commerce who works with Workforce Development programs. Maria also mentioned a discussion on housing might be great for the committee. Alderman Pitner would like to also see someone from ND Commerce on tourism and marketing.

MACEDC

Brekka Kramer, President and CEO of MACEDC, gave the committee a quick overview of the organization by presenting their mission, their five-year strategic plan, the MACEDC Board of Directors, and their MACEDC team. MACEDC serves as a champion and voice for business through strategic partnerships by representing the best interests of their member investors at local, regional, and national levels. MACEDC also provides military support through Task Force 21.

Mark Lyman discussed his position at MACEDC in Economic Development. He defined economic development as a set of programs, policies, or activities that aim to improve a community's quality of life and economic well-being. Mark Lyman mentioned some of the successes with economic development, such as AGT Foods, Hot Switch, the Minot Intermodal Facility, and the Logistics Park of ND. He discussed community development through community tours, placemaking, Renaissance Zone, TIF Districts, etc.

Brekka and Mark stood for questions on the Sentinel project and the Logistics Park.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - WHAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS?

Table this item for the next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The committee discussed the next meeting agenda would be on tourism and workforce development with MACEDC teaming up with ND Commerce. The committee would also like to see in an upcoming meeting an overview of the City of Minot Economic Development options.

UPCOMING INFORMATION

The committee plans to meet on the following dates from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the City Council Chambers, unless otherwise specified:

- November 22, 2024 (3rd Floor Executive Conference Room)
- December 6, 2024

- December 20, 2024
- January 10, 2025
- January 24, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm was initiated by Committee Member Pitner, seconded by Committee Member Nelson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Beth Feldner, Justin Hammer, Melinda Howe, Tyler Neether, Jordan Nelson, Paul Pitner; nays: None.