

Council Study Committee
May 14, 2012
Minutes

Council Members Present: Chair Pete Berry, Greg Marchant, Eric Mathieu, Pam Pepper, John Parker, John Sirianni and Mayor Bresnan.

Staff Present: Jean Furler

Chamber Contribution: A discussion to help support the chamber financially developed due to their inability to pay dues (currently \$2,380 based on 140 members) to the Greater Des Moines Partnership (GDMP). Chamber Executive Director, Denise Day spoke in favor of the request and asked that the city consider contributing based on a per capita amount of \$.75 to \$1.50. She indicated the Chamber provides many services and considered the organization the “hub” of the city. They provide grants to Indianola area businesses and organizations that encourage visitors to come to our city through the Tourism Committee. The Chamber also takes several calls a day regarding community questions and locations.

Pete Berry asked how the Chamber’s \$120,000 budget is spent and the following was provided for calendar year 2011:

Wages	\$67,000
Rent	\$10,000
Holiday Decorations (lighting, wreaths, greenery, bows, etc)	\$7,300
Insurance	\$4,000
Annual dinner	\$4,000
Office maintenance	\$3,000
Leases	\$3,000
Supplies	\$2,700
Technical (computer software, phones, etc)	\$2,000
Garden Tour	\$1,800
Holiday Extravaganza	\$1,500
Breakfast	\$1,300
Mailings	\$800

Lyle Kolosik, President Indianola Chamber, stated the organization is moving toward volunteers leading sponsored events. This will enable the Executive Director to recruit more members and promote economic development particularly on the square.

John Sirianni stated he supports the Chamber being a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the City needs to find an appropriate way to support them. He also indicated each group (City, Chamber, IDA & WCEDC) needs to provide a definition of what they believe economic development is and related responsibilities. Pam Pepper agreed stating defining roles and responsibilities could aid in preventing

duplication of services or efforts by all groups involved. The consensus was to move quickly to determine the structure of economic development by the various groups, define roles and the city's part of the process. The committee also agreed to pay the Chamber's GDMP dues for calendar year 2012 pro-rated for the remaining seven months June 1-December 31, 2012.

Staff was asked to obtain information regarding how other local governments fund economic development initiatives and research if there are other cities in Iowa with similar structures.

1. Other Items:

- 1) John Parker requested a review of Buxton and Howard as two-way streets. Staff indicated requests of this nature are generally sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.