

April 9, 2018
Council Workshop Minutes

The April 9, 2018, City Council workshop with East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) and Greater Dubuque Development (GDD) was called to order at 7:12PM by motion of Rausch and second by Kelchen. All voted in favor.

The Council thought it would be a good idea to have a workshop with ECIA and GDD to find out all they do for the City of Cascade and the Cascade Economic Development Corporation. Kelley Deutmeyer, Holly McPherson and Matt Specht were present from ECIA. Rick Dickinson and Dave Lyons were present from Greater Dubuque Development. Kelley Deutmeyer, executive director of ECIA gave an overview of what they did for CEDC and the City over the past few years. ECIA is a council of government for a 5 county region; Delaware, Dubuque, Clinton, Jackson and Cedar. ECIA provides services for community development, community services, economic development, housing assistance, employment and training, transit and transportation and planning. They have written some grants, inspected two properties, helped obtain small city funding, held meetings between employers and the school and offered 83 housing assistance vouchers over the past few years. They are willing to help with anything that comes up in the City.

Rick Dickinson, President & CEO, gave an overview of the organization. It started in 1984. They operate on the strength and stability of six pillars. These six pillars include business retention & expansion, workforce solutions, national marketing, startup Dubuque, sustainable innovations, and downtown transformation. During our discussion with Rick, he feels that Cascade should promote our niche, which is being a bedroom community. We have a lot to offer towards the quality of life for people living here and relocating here. Our school system is impeccable and we have our parks, the music, etc. Don't forget about trying to get manufacturing to come to Cascade, but also work on renovating the downtown.

There needs to be a transformation in our thought process, which it isn't all about getting smoke stacks in town, but improving our downtown and expanding on our great quality of life we offer. ECIA will be holding another strategic planning session in May. We need to set goals to match our ideas moving forward. We may want to consider offering incentives for downtown businesses and commercial businesses.

With nothing further, Rausch moved and Kelchen seconded to adjourn at 8:12p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Deanna McCusker, City Administrator

Greg Staner, Mayor