



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ackley, Ambrose, Blair, Fernandes, Lublin, Marshal, *Shuman

ABSENT: Allen, Atwell, Easter, Wlodarczyk

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

OTHERS PRESENT: DDA Managing Director Pesta, Finance Director Barlass, Police Chief Shakinias, Confidential Assistant Jaquays

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

2. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Business Update

Guest Speaker Joseph Grekin from Shafer and Weiner PLLC spoke about business options for business owners.

Mr. Grekin said the first thing business owners should do is ask for help. Mr. Grekin explained there are payroll protection package (PPP) loans and EBILs that are available from the State of Michigan but currently they are closed up. Mr. Grekin explained depending on the type of business there may be options from other sources. He said that includes for business owner's employees and gave an example of a restaurant. Mr. Grekin explained there is tier organization that is offering \$500 for restaurant workers. Mr. Grekin said all business owners should have a good handle on what their cash flow is since the shutdown and then be projecting a month or two out to see what your expenses are going to be and whether your income can cover it. He said there are some resources available at Oakland County website. Mr. Grekin said once you know what your problem is be proactive and reach and try and get a solution. Mr. Grekin gave an example if a business owner is not able to pay rent, he suggests if one reaches out to the landlord and ask to amend your lease most landlords should be open to a payment plan.

*Shuman arrives 4:25 p.m.

Council Member Owsinek said as a homeowner said he has taken all those steps Mr. Grekin has discussed and to work out a budget.

DDA Board Member Lublin said as a property owner he said it is a little early in the process to fully understand where it is all going.

DDA Board Member Ackley said she was on a conference call and the discussion was the local governments were concerned for the small business owners. Mrs. Ackley said she has not received any concerns to date.

Attorney Grekin gave a suggestion for property owners it is a good step for them to reach out because a lot of those business are applying for PPP loans and do not know they can use that loan to pay rent.

DDA Board Member Lublin said he is aware of the PPP loan that gives a business owner two months of payroll and another 25% to pay for rent or mortgage and has been in communication with his tenants.

DDA Board Member Fernandes asked if PPP loans are forgivable. DDA Board Member Lublin said it is not clear yet, they are supposed to be forgivable. He said if business owners bring 80% to 90% of their payroll back to what it was in February business owner's may be forgiven the loan.

Attorney Grekin discussed employee issues and how many will be retained. Mr. Grekin explained the options are to layoff or terminate employees. Mr. Grekin explained the unemployment benefits. Mr. Grekin said it is important for the business owners to know if they can afford the unemployment benefits and that will help with the decision on a layoff or termination. Mr. Grekin suggest those businesses still open to clearly communicate with their employees and to do verbally and in writing about their status. He also suggests written procedures about safety to reduce any potential liability.

DDA Board Member Fernandes said the Oakland County Executive Director Coulter passed an emergency order that anyone working or going to the store is mandated to where a mask now. Ms. Fernandes suggested to get the information out there and let business owners know that there are services available. Ms. Fernandes said businesses should not see the DDA as a resource but should absolutely see us as a resource at this time.

DDA Board Fernandes said Representative Crawford is receiving a lot of e-mails about unemployment. Ms. Fernandes said if people are having problem getting through with unemployment to call and her office will help but make sure people have tried to call more than just a couple of times.

DDA Board Member Marshal said business owners and employees who have questions to first reach out to your bank and they can assist or point you in the right direction.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

DDA Executive Director Whitt said the city is providing basic first responder services which is our responsibility as local government with police and fire. Mr. Whitt explained there have been some violations of the Governor's order and citations have been written. Mr. Whitt explained that police are not writing tickets for people being on their boat and opined that those types of tickets will stand scrutiny of court and unconstitutional and the Governor has overreached. Mr. Whitt said the city has not been overwhelmed with services and no one from the police or fire department has not been affected. Mr. Whitt said the City's role is to work for the county and any information people want should not be coming from elected officials about specifics it should be coming from the county and state website. Any local official whether it is Walled Lake or Commerce who tell you they have an enforcement responsibility or an operational responsibility they are misleading you and that is not their role. Mr. Whitt further explained an elected official's role is to legislate and if they have legislation, they get a meeting and pass that legislation. Mr. Whitt said the best we can do and answer calls and refer them if we are an elected official.

Executive Director Whitt said the Mayor has issued a local state of emergency literally the same day as the Governor did her first one on March 10th. Mr. Whitt said there have been some layoffs and others have been deemed essential. Mr. Whitt said the city is operating on a skeleton crew and that is not unusual for us because we have been doing it for years. Mr. Whitt said the city is getting a lot of calls from people asking how they can help and the best thing they can do is stay home and comply with the Governor's hope that you stay home. Mr. Whitt said the City has responded as far as Southfield in terms of our mutual aid program. Mr. Whitt said the City is prepared. Mr. Whitt said he has talked with the Mayor three times a day and those council members who have shown an interest in meeting with him anytime that they want.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. WARRANT REPORT:

DDA 04-01-20 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE WARRANT MARCH 2020

Motion by Lublin, supported by Ackley: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To receive and file warrant March 2020.

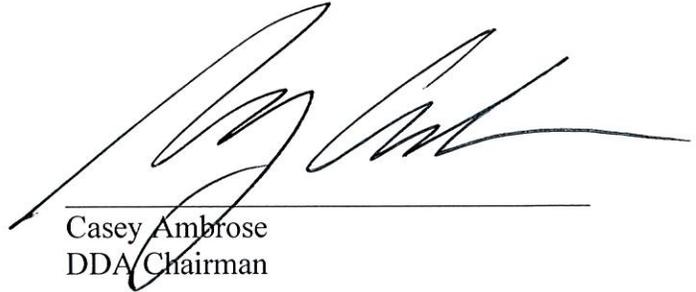
5. ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 04-02-20 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Fernandes; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m.



Chelsea Pesta
DDA Managing Director



Casey Ambrose
DDA Chairman