

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OR
JUNE 26, 2024 AT 7:00 PM**

ATTENDEES:

**Corey Sweeney
Phil Sanfiorenzo
Ian Murray
Joe Armato
John Doherty**

Absent: None

Members of the Public: Glorene Lesperance

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.

The June 26, 2024 meeting of the City of Heppner Economic Development Committee was called to order at 7:00 PM by Corey Sweeney.

2. Open Discussion

This is the first meeting of the Economic Development Committee. The core focus areas of the committee are: 1. Housing Development, 2. Daycare, 3. Business Growth/Job Creation. Chris Sykes has agreed to serve on the committee and will attend the next meeting. Corey would like to appoint members of the commission to represent one of the focus areas. They would be responsible for outreach and reporting on their individual subject. Ian Murray will take Daycare. Joe Armato will take Housing Development. Phil Sanfiorenzo will take Business Growth/Job Creation.

There was an update at the WCVEDG meeting regarding government owned foreclosed properties. There is a federal law regarding properties that have been foreclosed on due to property taxes. For example, if \$10,000 was owed on it and the government entity auctioned it off for \$20,000, they aren't allowed to profit from that. Many of these types of properties sit idle for quite a while. It's hopeful there will be changes during the next state legislative session.

Are there any specific goals the committee wants to set? Maybe look at any city properties that would benefit the community, either to sell or for trade? When the Chase Street properties were advertised for bid there was a condition that there needed to be plans for development within one year. There are a few buildable private lots in town but may not be easily available for purchase. There are a few lots that have been purchased by contractors that plan to build homes on them to then be sold. There are quite a few empty abandoned properties in Heppner. It would be nice to somehow get the owners

to sell the properties and have them torn down to be developed. Heppner could also use more multi housing. A four-plex or larger would be great if there was a big enough piece of land. Putting a limit on how many Airbnb's could help open up some housing. We should start out by taking baby steps. Maybe at the next meeting we will have some lots to look at. The Daycare is working on a plan and is ready to move but they do not know where yet. Maybe advertise the city lots on the website?

The next meeting will be July 24th at 7:00 PM.

3. Adjournment at 7:32