

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2018, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Kiewiet. Present: Stefl, Miller, Hamann and Kuester. Absent: Grineski. Stefl moved and Hamann seconded the approval of the meeting agenda as written. Motion carried four ayes.

Mayor Kiewiet opened the discussion on economic development for the City of Grundy Center. Currently, the Chamber of Commerce is without a director and Main Street Grundy Center will be asking for another pledge going forward. Kiewiet explained that there have been discussions about the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Grundy Center potentially combining as entities to work together. Kiewiet questioned where would this scenario leave economic development duties for the City as a whole? Kiewiet commented that he has been asked if the Main Street Grundy Center Director position could be a fully benefitted employee of the City. However, Main Street Iowa will not allow the City to take over authority/supervisory of the position. Stefl asked, if the MSGC Director position was increased to 40 hours a week and add the Chamber duties, would we be able to keep up with everything we are doing now. Kuester commented that it would be difficult to determine which hours were devoted to Chamber and which were for MSGC.

Mayor Kiewiet then commented that the Main Street district is primarily for the downtown only and we do have lots of others within the city limits that are not included. Kiewiet asked, "Are we getting what we want out of the monies we have pledged to MSGC in the past?" Kiewiet commented that if we grow the community as a whole, then the Main Street will grow. Kiewiet expressed that the growth is outside of downtown, in the outskirts, and that's where the additional tax revenues are coming from. He questioned, will the façade revitalization project grow Grundy Center as a whole? Milled commented that having a thriving Main Street district is very positive, without a booming core what will bring people to Grundy Center. Stefl commented that we may not be thriving as we are currently, if Main Street Grundy Center would not be here. Stefl expressed after speaking to local residents many feel that the spurring of development right now is because of the work Main Street Grundy Center has done and their commitment.

Mayor Kiewiet then asked, "If we were to give the same amount of funding to the Chamber of Commerce, could they do the same things that Main Street Grundy Center is currently doing for us?" Miller commented that the City should think hard about funding a position that the City would not have any control over. Stefl commented that without Main Street Grundy Center would we continue to have access to the internal knowledge that we currently have with them. Stefl commented that even though we do not see Jeff Kolb, Butler Grundy Development Alliance, he is adding to the current spark of development we are seeing. Kiewiet asked, "Would be we able to run our own program, without being a Main Street Community?" Stefl explained that economic development is difficult, as we will not see a tangible impact immediately.

Mayor Kiewiet requested that the council try to speak to past and present members of the Main Street Grundy Center Board of Directors to see how they feel about the program. For example, how did the entire program get started and if it is functioning like they thought it would be? Miller commented that hearing from Jeff Kolb, Butler Grundy Development Alliance Director, may help answer some of these questions.

No formal action was taken at this time.

Stefl moved and Kuester seconded adjournment of the work session at 6:25pm. Motion carried four ayes.

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Al Kiewiet, Mayor

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Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk