

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
MANISTEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT WORK SESSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

The Manistee City Council met with the Manistee County Board of Commissioners in a special joint work session on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan 49660.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Dale Cooper, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Robert Goodspeed, James Smith, Mark Wittlieff, Erin Pontiac

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Pauline Jaquish, Richard Schmidt, Brook Shafer, Mark Bergstrom, Jeff Dontz, Karen Goodman, Margaret Batzer

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Thad Taylor, County Administrator Tom Kaminski, Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce Representatives, Staff, Public, and Media

Public Comments on Work Session Related Items.

- Jim Matthews, 334 River St. / has attended several visioning sessions; would like to see an actionable plan and guidelines; need measurable success.
- Glen Zaring, 321 Fifth St. / echoed Mr. Matthews statement; stop studying and start doing; spell out what needs to be done and do it.
- Kelly Smith, chair of AES / introduced Lisa Leedy as the new AES executive director candidate.
- Lisa Leedy / gave a brief background of her qualifications and ideas to move forward.
- Terry Walker, Filer Township supervisor / has worked with AES on several township issues such as Explore the Shores Magoon Creek project and the US-31 Corridor Project; need to give careful consideration to what benefits the community, county wide, and regionally.
- Tamara Buswinka, Manistee Township / decision should be made which would create the best prosperity for all of us; asked for thoughtful and careful deliberations.
- Dennis terHorst, 63 Clay St. / in favor of economic development; cautioned of the difference between economic development and community development; defined economic development as payroll and tax base.

Presentation by the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce. Dennis McCarthy, Brandon Jensen, and Crystal Young, board members of the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce made a presentation on proposed economic development services through the Chamber. Some of the points outlined include:

- Organization is already in place
- 300+ members
- Strong focus on deliverable outcomes
- Diverse funding source, public and private

- Streamline operations
- Initiative came from their members
- Building upon what is already there, prior success
- Would become a 501(c)3
- Funding request: \$32,563 – City and \$63,538 – County
- 30% reduction in current costs

Questions/Comments:

- Have there been any studies done to help make an informed decision?
- Do we straighten it out or start out with something new?
- This is also a reflection on our own actions.
- Not seeing a lot of new ideas that are different from the regular Chamber duties.
- Concerned about AES, how do they determine what county/direction they would point a developer to.
- Everyone in the room wants the same thing for the county.
- Both Chamber boards are independent.
- Create a management agreement.
- Questioned membership retention and diversity in the county, is growth stagnant?
- Discussed how Chamber members react with concerns or questions.
- AES is doing well with community development and growth funding, give them an opportunity to continue.
- Appreciates the enthusiasm of the Chamber spokespeople.
- Is there a Plan B?
- This is about people and relationships, need to work together.

Mayor Smith thanked the Chamber for their presentation; thanked the Commissioners and the public for attending; more discussion on the AES will be done at the October 10th work session.

County Commissioner Chair Dontz encouraged everyone to please reach out and talk to the AES and the Chamber to help make our decision.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Michelle Wright MMC | CPFA, MiCPT
City Clerk | Chief Deputy Treasurer