

Florence County Economic Development Committee – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 6, 2023

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Fran Modschiedler

Present: Supervisors Gary Steber, Sherry Johnson, Joe Mills, Fran Modschiedler and Jeanette Bomberg

Absent: N/A

Also attending: N/A

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda, Supervisor Johnson. Second Supervisor Steber. Carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2023 meeting

Motion to approve minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting, Supervisor Steber. Second Supervisor Mills Carried.

Open Session - Updates for Economic Development

There is continued work on getting a daycare and there have been meetings Family and Child Learning Centers who administer Head Start, searching to fill a home visitor position. Hugo's will be the name of 715 as it opens. The new owners are doing a lot of work to get it ready including new walls and ADA bathrooms. The 44 apartments are looking at a February 5, 2024 opening date and the wait list grows daily according to SC Swiderski. Some miscellaneous items were Saloon 2 sold, Journey North will no longer have U-Hauls as of January 1, 2024, there's a sign for Angies Creations that will open in one of Rachel's buildings (next to NSight), and Energy Services has purchased the MBank building and it will house approximately 15 employees. Paperwork is coming from USDA for Gemstar transfer from Marinette County. There's an Iron Mountain engineering company that is looking to buy the Northlake business in In-Comm Park. Printz continues to assist folks with finding finance options for businesses.

In the event space, there's been a lot of success. Christmas in Florence was a huge success along with the ice sculpting and Open House at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center. Printz is starting on a few big events for 2024, SFC2024 and Hill Drags. Chili Ski In is scheduled back in February 2024. The first couple of months of 2024 are filling up with ice fishing derbies and the Keyes Peak Winter Party will be held again. TOC is already lining up the Street Dance for July.

NWTC's Entrepreneurship Center Program Coordinator will be visiting Florence in the upcoming weeks for a tour. EDC has also received BEAD funding for broadband planning that will go through 2024. EDC continues to work with radio and digital marketing via various social media platforms. Florence County Visitor Guides are being updated. Travel Wisconsin updates are being done. Printz will be Community Ambassador for WEDC Talent Attraction Program.

No further business to be discussed, motion to adjourn, Supervisor Johnson. Second Supervisor Steber. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric Printz, Director