

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

City of Germantown

February 15, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Heidi Grant, Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, Ken Tudor, Bryce Henson, Mike Kuhn

Also Present: Will Parsons, Community Relations Manager; Pat Higgins, Economic Development and City Grant Writer; Keith Brane, Planning Consultant; Judy Gilleland, City Manager; Mary Crockett, Downtown Manager; Chip Wirrig, Public Service Operations Manager; Mike Hafner, Traffic Engineering Consultant; Bonnie Koogler, City Council

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Approval of Minutes

The January meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion with TEC Traffic Engineer Mike Hafner

Mike H briefed the EDC on the results of the original study done on the intersection of Market and Cherry. He informed the group that this was not an "operational study" and instead was focused only on the single intersection. In this framework, the 4-way stop was not warranted (based on current characteristics and crash report). Moving forward, TEC is going to be looking at the downtown as a whole to see how modifying this intersection to be a 4-way stop would impact the entire system.

Mike H then informed the EDC that it would be a City decision on whether the existing traffic lights be removed in place of stop signs, but he recommends that the group considers what it is that is trying to be achieved through these actions and to keep safety a top priority. At this time he reiterated that stop signs are not meant to be used as a tool to slow traffic.

He then went over the standard characteristics that call for a 4-way stop. He also touched on what areas/items a municipality has control over in regard to streets/right-of-ways, which largely includes most everything within city-limits.

Mark H proposed turning the existing stop lights into 4 blinking red lights, and Mike H addressed what the implications of doing so could be.

Ken T raised a question in regard to how idling cars could impact air quality, to which Mike H answered that there probably would be an impact, but it would need to be looked into.

Tom W asked Mike H how adding bump-outs to Market would affect sight distance. Mike H informed that group that adding these would most likely improve sight distance. As bump-outs were a recommendation from the Downtown Redevelopment Plan, Mike H informed the EDC that TEC would be taking the aforementioned study and its recommendations into consideration when completing their updated study.

Mike K emphasized that the safety of pedestrians in the downtown is a priority and also briefly touched on which are the main companies/organizations that have large trucks passing through Germantown.

Moving forward, the EDC will give provide a recommendation to Council on the situation. Judy G reminded the group that before any project or study takes place, there has to be funding allocated from the budget.

At this point, it was further emphasized that the City of Germantown has say over the roads in town and does not require ODOT approval. Chip W also reminded the group that ODOT will be repaving SR 729 in fiscal year 2028, and that this could impact what the City would like to see done in the downtown. Any proposed changes would need to be submitted at least 1 year prior to ODOT's project.

A further item that will be impacting traffic in town is the moving of the schools next year.

Mark H made a motion to ask City Council for funding for a study, Heidi seconded. The motion passed. It was decided that representatives from the EDC should be present at the next Council meeting.

Update on Downtown Activities

Pat H shared that a monthly report for EDC members in regards to the implementation of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan will be provided in their packets going forward. This will cut down on the amount of information that needs to be shared in the EDC meeting. It was suggested that the updates be divided up according to the sections they fall under in the Redevelopment Plan, and that if there is no update for a given section, that that should also be stated.

Will P shared that the idea for expanding the existing CRA in Downtown Germantown was discussed at the previous City Council meeting and that legislation enacting this will be presented at the March Council meeting. He also shared that a new Facebook page for Downtown Germantown has been created and will be administered by the City. This page will be used to share events, happenings, and other pertinent items in the downtown in order to promote the businesses and organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am