

February 25, 2019

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a work session at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 25, 2019, at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 W. Guy McCown Drive.

Members present were Dan Swafford, Pam Samples, Scott Oldham and Scott Thomas. Sandra Hash, Clerk-Treasurer was also present.

Dan Rarey, Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce, began discussion by stating the Town and The Chamber of Commerce have worked parallel each other for many years. The Town has come so far after suffering a great deal of physical problems with flooding by building of a new Town Hall, Fire Station and Police Station. The Chamber has grown in membership from 40 to over 100 members. Now they would like to see what they can accomplish working together. The Chamber represents the business community but with no residents, you have no business community. One area of main focus is affordable housing. They are interested in what the council's vision is and how they can help. They are here to support and not just serve as a committee.

Liz Erwin, Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce and Smithville Telephone, is interested in having a continuing dialog as they see moving forward in Ellettsville. She feels the community growth is credited to the direction from the council and the department heads moving forward with great ideas such as the Trails Project. Her desire is to make sure they are doing the right things from a business prospective and an overall community prospective to meet the needs of the residents and businesses especially young entrepreneur's that might be attracted to the area. She feels we have great schools and wants to help market those great assets. Smithville Telephone is building out additional neighborhoods with fiber and that will be another great asset to market for the area. She explained that the Regional Opportunity Initiatives Quality of Place and Workforce Development Interests, Monroe County's plan was just accepted. That opens up opportunity to apply for grants for anything included in that plan. Their hope is to partner with the Town to help direct planning to receive those grants to better Ellettsville.

Christa Curtis, Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce and Cook Group, newest member and excited resident of Ellettsville. Growing up, her grandmother was Clerk Treasurer of Bloomfield so she saw how Town government worked and after graduating from IU she worked in Tourism which was funded by county tax so she became familiar with how County government worked and became involved with community development. After starting her family she wanted to move back to the area and chose Ellettsville for the schools and felt like it was a place she could get involved. She felt the cost of living was better and they loved the flexibility of options available in Ellettsville to create the life they wanted. She is very excited in the plan and working together for the future. The county plan is about the future and creating an environment of prosperity for the people who live here. Challenges are housing, childcare and transportation which will require people to come together and find solutions. Cook employees expressed in focus groups, they have the same vision for their lives as she had with her family to help them thrive. Sixty person want to purchase a home. Her goal is to help work with the Town to achieve a plan, how they can contribute and provide options.

Dan Swafford, Vice President Ellettsville Town Council thanked everyone for meeting and appreciates the open dialog. He is interested in meeting once a month with other departments and Main Street Ellettsville to help come together and push this forward. **Dan Rarey**, stated people need a sense of community not strictly driven by the university. What we need is a shared vision and emphasized, what can we do to help. **Scott Thomas**, agrees with needing a shared vision. He didn't realize the interest in affordable housing and was enlightened by their vision and thought they were strictly focused on economic development and business. He asked for explanation of affordable housing. **Dan Rarey**, explained it was around \$150,000.00, but most new homes cannot be built for that and there is not much available. **Christa Curtis** added that it isn't just providing the housing, but to provide education and opportunities to thrive to obtain affordable housing. She feels you should set your own course and who you want to be. **Scott Thomas** was concerned with

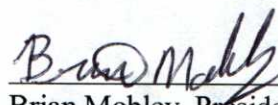
the struggles to be able to maintain our tax base and would love to see the Chamber help grow businesses to help fund the needs. He feels the Town needs funding to maintain our Police department and Fire department. We have to expand our business in order to support this Town. He asked for the help to make it affordable. Show us the way to make these things happen and for us to afford it. **Scott Oldham** agrees that Ellettsville does have amenities and has a great deal to offer with the schools and fiber, but Ellettsville is not a destination. We don't have the leverage it takes to sustain and we have to have a unified vision to build amenities in order to accomplish that. Build it and they will come. Ellettsville is a great place to come home to, but we only set the stage for other people to capture it. He expressed his feelings of how the schools and Smithville have all done their part but doesn't feel the Town has done much to contribute and he emphasized the buildings and trails were all part of a future plan, now is where they need to look farther to make a plan to build more for the Town. **Dan Rarey** feels everything is in place to do that with the new facilities. He sees where the trails projects are taking the Town, when at first, he didn't.

Marilyn Skirvin, Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce and Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), mentioned they service all of Monroe County and they want to work with the Town as well. **Christa Curtis** encouraged more community events. Food Truck Wednesday was a great event. She feels identity is important and we need to find who we want to be and build on that. That is the place to start. We need to figure out how we pay for it, how do we get there, the challenges and who do we need to bring to the table to work through them. **Scott Oldham** gave an example of Nashville, they have an identity, not just as a suburb. Ellettsville needs that. **Liz**, BEDC offers courses designed for elected officials for economic development. **Scott Thomas** wants to be aware as a council what is developable. The Chamber has more insight on that side than they do so just let them know so they can work together. **Dan Rarey** feels Ellettsville is much easier to work with and is widely known. **Christa Curtis** suggested the BEDC can help on how to get things started.


Lynn Coyn, President of BEDC, meeting today is the best way to start and Ellettsville has great potential. He sees hundreds of young, educated families working outside the Town. The near future will have 30% of our workforce working from home and Ellettsville is equipped for that. He believes that there will be an interest in tech related businesses because the people who work in them are already living here. Potential is phenomenal and business and industry follows the people. Local option income tax is the future and will provide growth.

Adjournment

The work session adjourned at approximately 6:29 p.m.



Brian Mobley, President

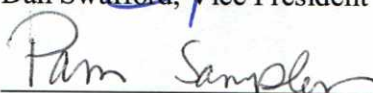


Scott Oldham

Scott Thomas



Dan Swafford, Vice President



Pam Samples



Sandra C. Hash, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC, MMC