



Economic Development Commission

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

Washington Historical Society, 128 Washington Square, Washington, IL 61571

Present: Kevin Beale, Bobby Martin, Drew Hillman, Lisa Uphoff

Absent: Kregg Soltow, Mike Herzog, Corey Allen

Also Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER: At 6:30 p.m., Commissioner Bobby Martin called the meeting to order with a quorum present.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
 - A. Marci Ullom, operator of “The Original Festival of Food Trucks” expressed interest in helping coordinate food truck events, vendor fairs and/or car shows at Washington (Sunnyland) Plaza. These events historically have drawn large crowds, and have already proven successful at the Connect Center.
 - B. Jake Tharp provided helpful logistic details about larger food truck festivals (such as sales tax, vendor responsibilities/expectations, and “nice to have” amenities)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Kevin Beale motioned to accept the January 13, 2026 meeting minutes; Commissioner Lisa Uphoff seconded. Passed by voice vote.
4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. *Washington Plaza Project*
 1. Commissioner Martin outlined the latest potential configuration of the “Plaza Park” green space and outlined a need to route power and water/sewer lines. The city will be performing an engineering study to solidify budgetary numbers.
 2. The EDC is actively working with the plaza owner and another business owner looking to place a business in an outlot area adjacent to the green space.
 3. This combined work will lead to a repaving of a sizable portion of the parking lot.
 4. The EDC is also working with Summit Laundry, The Peak, and Circle K to help address some traffic and water management issues in the area.
 - B. *Council Update*
 1. The group did not have any additional updates for city council at this time
 - C. *Database/Survey*
 1. Commissioner Kevin Beale provided an update on the survey test results and the need for more test submissions
 2. Commissioner Beale also mentioned that the local business owner spreadsheet needs many updates, with EDC members taking responsibility for connecting with any local business where they have an existing relationship
 - D. *Budget Discussion*
 1. Commissioner Martin sent the proposed EDC budget to the city administrator for feedback
 - E. *Marketing Meeting Update*

1. Commissioner Martin mentioned that the next meeting for the EDC's hosted collaborative group (tentatively called WISE) will be scheduled shortly. This group will help connect local leaders for collaboration, and will help shape community-wide initiatives, strategies, and events.
 2. Commissioner Hillman mentioned the importance of the EDC being a connector for community leaders / business owners
5. OTHER BUSINESS: None
6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:
- A. *Contractor / Development Guidelines*
 1. Commissioner Uphoff mentioned that the development work going on near Protea Place has caused some disruption in the Westlake neighborhood, and that developers should prioritize neighbor relationships
 - B. *Tazewell County School Tax Referendum*
 1. Commissioner Uphoff mentioned that Tazewell County is likely to have a referendum in the fall to add a 1% county tax that will be allocated to schools in the county. This was mentioned as an "FYI" item, and was not discussed in depth.
7. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner Kevin Beale moved to adjourn; Commissioner Lisa Uphoff seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote