

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
April 17, 2019

The meeting of the Libertyville Economic Development Commission was called to order at 7:32 a.m. at Laser Precision, 2400 Commerce Dr, Libertyville, IL.

Members Present: Chairman John Cortesi, Commissioners William Abington, Thomas Kreuser, Steve Martin, Sara Rolsma, and Edward Werdell.

Members Absent: Brian Grano and Dan Marks.

Staff Present: John Spoden, Director of Community Development and Heather Rowe, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present: Jeff Adams, Cameron Adams, and Kim Wimer of Laser Precision; Mark Anderson, MainStreet Libertyville

Minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Laser Precision: Chairman Cortesi opened the meeting and thanked Laser Precision for the opportunity to talk with them about the business and its needs. Business owner Jeff Adams welcomed the Commission and introduced Cameron Adams, Sales & Marketing Manager and Kim Wimer, Human Resource Manager.

Mr. Adams explained the company's expertise in laser cutting steel products for over 25 years, which included a major expansion 7 years ago. He described their customer base which includes over 10,000 products for Caterpillar. Laser Precision employs 153 full time, temporary and permanent positions over two shifts. Through automation, they are able to run a 3rd shift, making it a 24-7 facility. 80% of the employment base comes from Lake County (primarily Round Lake, Grayslake, Mundelein and Waukegan). The company has become a very data-based company taking product orders 24-7 electronically then completing the production with the help of computer automated equipment.

Laser Precision's biggest challenge is maintaining a current and future workforce. They have fully engaged the Lake County Workforce Ecosystem module, by working with the L.C. High School Tech Campus, L.C. Workforce Development Dept. and the College of Lake County, where they participate in classroom education, offering student tours, taking interns, participating in job fairs, and employing graduates. They recognize that agility with their workforce is key, and utilize various HR benefits and marketing tools to accommodate, educate, attract and retain the workforce. Laser Precision engages via social media and print publications to regularly talk about the change in manufacturing into a clean and technically advanced field, as a way to help change the conversation about the industry and the well-paid employment opportunities it presents. They will be honored as the Lake County Innovator of the Year award at the Lake County Partners BIG Event on May 17th.

Mr. Adams invited those present to participate in a facility tour following conclusion of the meeting.

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Communications and Discussions:

Mr. Spoden invited the Commissioners to attend a public open house on the Comprehensive Plan on May 9th. Ms. Rowe noted that the Commission is invited to join at the Village's table for the Lake County Partners Big Event.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather J. Rowe, AICP
Economic Development Coordinator