

Small Business Task Force Minutes:

- **Date/Time:** August 19, 2025, 5:32–6:32 PM
- **Chair:** Rebecca Reckers
- **In Attendance:** Mayor Jessica Fette; Council Members: Rebecca Reckers, Chair, Tyson Hermes, Jennifer Jasper-Lucas, Diana Niceley; City Attorney Jack Gatlin; Community Member Nick Eads
- **Next Meeting:** October 7, 2025, 5:30 PM

Key Discussion Points:

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the March 18 meeting approved unanimously.

2. Incentive Programs Review:

- Last year's programs were highly successful, leveraging \$522,000 from \$129,000 spent (4:1 ROI).
- Additional \$20,000 added for a total of \$150,000 for the current fiscal year.
- Strong demand: 14 active submittals totaling \$120,000; \$30,000 still available.
- Goal: have all projects ready by July 1 next year to allow for expansion or new incentives.

3. Private Development Incentives:

- Used to encourage business improvements, expansions, and acquisitions in Erlanger.
- Feedback suggests some incentives (e.g., CAP incentive) may need to be increased to attract larger investments.

4. Demolition Grants:

- Two potential projects: Dairy Queen partial demolition and St. Vincent de Paul property demolition.

5. Review of Other Cities' Incentive Programs:

- Norwood, Newport, Louisville examples considered for structuring Erlanger incentives.

- Emphasis on balancing property tax abatements, payroll tax credits, and new construction incentives.
- Considered 5–10 year incentives with possible extensions; goal is legal feasibility under Kentucky law.

6. Challenges & Considerations:

- Need to navigate Kentucky statutes creatively since the state lacks some local redevelopment tools (like Ohio's revitalization zones).
- Focus on vacant land, commercial and industrial development, and preventing misuse of incentives (e.g., data centers or non-profits avoiding taxes).
- Ensure zoning and moral clauses are applied appropriately.

7. Next Steps / Legislative Action:

- Jack Gatlin to draft potential legislation or policy framework for incentives, reflecting task force discussions and legal considerations.
- Discussion planned for October 7 meeting before council consideration.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn: Diana Niceley; Second: Jennifer Jasper-Lucas. All approved at 6:32 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Mark Collier
City Administrator

APPROVED:

Rebecca Recker, Chairperson
Small Business Task Force

ATTESTED BY:

Sherry Hoffman
City Clerk