Members Present- Chair- Don McDaniel, Holly Miller-Downour and Randy Groff
Others Present- CDBG Director- Mary Jo Smith, Mayor Dave Scheffler, DDL Executive Director Amanda Everitt and SSD Paul Martin.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 am

Mayor David Scheffler - Economic Development Update

Magna Seating site work continues. The road is being widened and service lines are going in. Progress on site is going very well. Bridge is being put out to bid, with a goal of Feb 1, 2020 for completion. They are currently hiring in finance, IT and engineers. Magna is set up in Spec Building. Magna HR people are working on staffing production jobs.

Planning Commission has recommended approval of name change for Anchor Ave. to Magna Ave. This will come before council for approval.

Economic Development Director Mike Pettit has discussed his possible retirement with the Mayor. There has been a preliminary discussion about moving Economic Development Department to the Lancaster Port Authority. There are some potential benefits to such a move. This is only discussion. Committee asked for more details, but this would give the city a full time Economic Development Director. This would be similar to the “Jobs Ohio” program the state is using.

Community Improvement Corp. (CIC) is nearly out of land and is looking at what their future may hold, and does it make sense to continue operation? If it were to cease operation, it would likely transfer responsibilities to the Port Authority. All these things would need Council approval.

Timber Top annexation proposal is moving forward. There is currently discussion for 77 acres to be annexed into the City of Lancaster. Regular annexation process involves Greenfield Twp., Fairfield County Commissioners and City of Lancaster would all have to approve the annexation requests and the city would have to approve any zoning changes.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is hearing a request to change zoning on a 21 acres site across form Fisher Catholic, to allow the development of single-family homes, and possibly an assisted living facility. More information as this moves forward.

Community Development - Mary Jo Smith-

- Proposed CDBG Legislation. We received approval of our grant, as submitted. We were awarded $178,510.00. The legislation is for appropriation. Looking to submit in first week of October. She is asking that we suspend. It should be noted that the proposal received three readings as well as public hearings.
Councilperson Groff discussed in detail that he would not be supporting this legislation. He feels that recipients must comply with codes for the city and that United Hair Artist, one of the recipients is not complying with the off-street parking requiring of city code. Randy stated he would only support if either the code is changed, or the business come into compliance. The Mayor discussed that he has checked on this and that he can find no evidence that the business is not in compliance. Councilperson Groff insist that this situation still exist and that he feels the business is receiving “special treatment”. Mary Jo Smith discussed that this grant is a comprehensive entitlement grant and that United Hair Artist qualifies and has been approved for the grant. She stated that United Hair Artist meets all CDBG criteria and are approved by HUD. Mr. Groff discussed that this has been an ongoing problem and that until corrected he cannot and will not vote for the CDBG legislation. Mary Jo emphasized that the block grant program does not require off-street parking as part of the grant approval process. SSD Martin discussed that there currently is no mechanism to investigate this issue once a occupancy permit has been approved.

Community Development is working on 2019 CDBG expenditures reports. The report is due November 30, 2019.

Mary Jo stated that all 2020 applicants received some funding. Not all programs received the amount requested, but each did receive funding. Applicants are funded based on federal requirements and our approved plan.

Discussion continued regarding off-street parking requirements for downtown. Mrs. Downhour recommended that we look at the parking requirements and fix the problem. Mr. Groff mentioned that he sponsored legislation to remove the off-street parking requirement. He stated that the legislation was not supported by the former mayor of city engineer. Mr. McDaniel discussed that the planning commission, mayor and council has new members and fixing the problem is important.

**Destination Downtown Lancaster - Amanda Everitt**

- Market rate housing development at Main and Memorial. The is already significant interest in this development.
- Old Towne Center at Columbus and Wheeling is full, with some businesses moving in and some changing spaces. Sparkle and Rust moving to corner space currently occupied by Promotions by Design. Promotions by Design is consolidating into smaller offices located in the south portion of their current space.
- LCS Building has some openings and LCS is looking at possibly selling
- Glass Museum has purchased the entire building they are housed in. VCB has moved to Wheeling Street offices.
- Community Church building at Mulberry and Columbus has 12000 sq. ft of office space available.
• Essex Building at Columbus and W. Mulberry St. the space is being marketed. But currently no plans.
• Rabbit and Rocket opening at 207 W. Main Street. Crafts, sewing, classes, etc. opening in October
• “Personalize Your Item” has opened at 321 N. Broad St. They are a screen-printing business.
• Bobs Backyard BBQ is looking to expand into the space next to them.

Motion (Miller-Downour) and 2nd (Groff) made to adjourn.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 AM