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Kankakee City Council
Community Development Committee
November 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 385 E. Oak St.

Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Community Development Committee (Committee) of the Kankakee City Council ("Council") was called to order by Chair Dave Baron on Monday, November 2, 2026 at 6:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers, proper notice having been given to the public and Committee members.

The following Committee members were present: Alds. Mike Prude (1), Dave Baron (2), Larry Osenga (3), Danita Swanson (4), and Mike Cobbs (6). Alds. Victor Nevarez (5) and Lenora Noble (7) were absent. The following guests were also present: Economic & Community Development Agency (ECDA) Executive Director Barbi Brewer-Watson, ECDA Assistant Director Miya Petitgoue, and Ald. Dale Tolly (3). The Chair recognized a quorum was present.

Ald. Baron asked the Committee to review the September 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes, which had been made available to the Committee in advance of the meeting. **Upon a motion by Ald. Cobbs and seconded by Ald. Osenga, the Committee voted on a voice vote to approve the meeting minutes from September 8, 2026.**

The Committee reviewed ECDA's September and October community development draw vouchers. **Upon a motion by Ald. Swanson to approve payment of the September and October draw vouchers totaling the amount of $259,871.04 and seconded by Ald. Osenga, the Committee voted (5 Yes, 0 No) on a roll call vote as follows: Prude – Y. Baron – Y (abstain on 27-09-04 and 27-10-04). Osenga – Y. Swanson – Y. Nevarez – Y. Cobbs – Y.**

In the monthly ECDA departmental report, Ms. Watson notified Committee members that 2 lead hazard projects were completed in October, and 11 more are underway. She explained that ECDA requires a lead blood screening as part of its intake process (often from the County Health Department or their primary care). Further, when the Health Department identifies a child residing in the City who is screened as a part of their programming with an elevated blood lead level, the Department submits a referral to us. Those with elevated levels receive priority from the wait list.

Following the Council's recent approval of changes to ECDA's to Middle Income Rehabilitation Assistance (MIRA) program and Rental Rehab (RR) Program guidelines, 2 RR projects and 3 MIRA projects are currently in process. ECDA intends to get recipients under contract before the end of the year to ensure allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will benefit Kankakee residents. ECDA had made changes to its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs based on comments from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant monitor, including as to the presentation of information in ECDA's annual performance report. ECDA's CDBG Program Manager Marlena Kalafut has been certified as a housing counselor, and ECDA is awaiting HUD approval to begin

counseling services. Using CDBG funds, the building at 592 North Schuyler Avenue will be demolished this program year.

ECDA has received a signed CDBG grant agreement from HUD. According to HUD's SAVE program requirement, ECDA and Public Service Program (PSP) recipients must first verify citizenship for all CDBG funded programming. This applies to recipients for the 2026-27 and subsequent years. The requirement has been challenged in federal court, and the rule has been stayed pending resolution of the lawsuit.

The terms for Community Advisory Board (CAB) members representing even-numbered wards will lapse at the end of the year. The application is available for these positions. Even if the position is not open, ECDA will collect and keep the applications for future consideration.

Ald. Baron asked Committee members to consider if they would like a presentation from any particular organizations, groups, or individuals doing community development work in the City.

Upon a motion by Ald. Osenga and seconded by Ald. Prude, the Committee voted via voice vote to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, December 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ald. Dave Baron
Chair