

Village of Germantown Hills

Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**-Karl Figg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

EDC Committee	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5
Karl Figg-Village President/Chair	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Justin Nena	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Justin Krager	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Nathan Henricks	Absent	-	-	-		
Veronica Axelson	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Paige Patel	Absent	-	-	-		
Adam Brumbaugh	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Ann Doubet-Director	Present	Y	Y	Y		

Also present:
Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**-None

- 3. Approval of August 20, 2026, EDC meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve August 20, 2026, EDC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Justin Nena. Motion passed #1.

- 4. Discussion and Recommendation to the Village Board on a Business Community Improvement Grant**

Karl Figg explained the Business Community Improvement Grant program. The Village typically budgets \$10,000 each fiscal year for the grant program.

Karl noted that Blue Margaritas recently closed in Germantown Hills and that Jake and Sarah Adkins, owners of Germantown Grille, purchased the building. They are requesting a Business Community Improvement Grant for the installation of signs for their new business, Sparks Taphouse. The total cost of the signs is \$8,118.75, with a requested reimbursement of \$4,059.38.

Ann Doubet explained that the proposed improvements include changing the pole sign, the sign near the front door, and the sign near the patio area. The applicants provided a rough drawing of the proposed signs but may make changes once the colors and final design are selected.

Veronica Axelson had applied for and received approval for a \$5,000 Business Community Improvement Grant for the purchase and installation of a new door at Michael's Italian Feast for this fiscal year.

The Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the amount budgeted for the grant program or allowing unused grant funds to carry over. It was noted that the Village Board could modify the funding if they agreed to do so. The new fiscal year funding will begin May 1st.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to recommend approval to the Village Board on a Business Community Improvement Grant to Jake and Sarah Adkins in the amount of \$4,059.38 for Sparks Taphouse's three signs. The motion was seconded by Justin Krager. Motion passed #2.

5. EDC Chairman/Director Reports

Ann Doubet reported the following:

- There is a potential new tobacco and vape shop business proposed near Jubilee Lane/Pizza Hut.

- There's a new ADA compliance requirement that will require the Village website to be compliant by April 26, 2028. The Village is working with its website company regarding the requirements. Adam Brumbaugh stated that the school district has a consultant who manages ADA compliance matters for the school district.

- Tri-County Planning Commission will be installing a traffic counter on Woodland Knolls Road. The counter will provide information regarding the different modes of transportation using the roadway.

- The Village is still experiencing mail delivery issues. Julia Miller has been communicating with the customer relations coordinator who is working with the Village regarding the ongoing delivery issues.

- A public hearing has been scheduled regarding the proposed expansion of the Northern Tazewell County Enterprise Zone which will be held on October 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at East Peoria City Hall.

- The Village is working on a micromobility ordinance addressing e-bike issues.

6. Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce Update-

Veronica Axelson provided an update from the Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce. She reported that the Fall Garage Sales are currently taking place, the Chamber will hold Trunk or Treat on October 24th, and the Community Prayer Breakfast will be held on October 28th. Carl Cannon will be the speaker at the Community Prayer Breakfast. Veronica also reported that the Chamber is still accepting nominations for the Servant Leadership Award.

7. School Updates

Justin Krager stated that at the recent school board meeting, Adam Brumbaugh presented the school district's budget. Justin noted that there were concerns regarding some school district fund balances. Justin stated that whether the school district can assist with construction funding for MTCO Park will depend on the needs of the park with the limited funds that are currently available.

The Village is currently having its engineers complete the engineering for the MTCO Park to Arbor Vitae multi-use path. The Village is also applying for an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant, for the Germantown Hills to Metamora Multi-Use Path, provided the Village of Metamora is agreeable to the project and their local share of the funding.

8. Business Round Table Updates

The Committee was reminded that the Village Community Cleanup Day will take place next week on Village residents' normal garbage day.

The EDC will discuss the public comments received regarding the Active Transportation Plan, as well as any potential amendments, to make a recommendation to the Village Board for approval at its next meeting.

9. Next meeting-October 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment-A motion was made by Justin Krager to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #3.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk