



**CITY OF CORNING  
SPECIAL "BRAINSTORMING" MEETING  
of the  
CORNING BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
(C-BID) MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017  
5:30 p.m.**

City Manager Kristina Miller welcomed those present. She then provided a brief explanation of the purpose of the meeting. She stated that she respects the time of those present and therefore anticipates completion of the meeting within an hour and a half: A PowerPoint Presentation with pictures illustrating what other entities are currently doing was then provided by Ms. Miller.

**PowerPoint:**

**1. What is the problem:**

- a. Lack of vibrant sustainable businesses;
- b. Dilapidated Buildings
- c. Out-of-area owners
- d. Eyesore
- e. Lack of Sales Tax Revenue
- f. Residents embarrassed when visitors/family visits from out of town.

**2. What can we do?**

- a. Provide outdoor seating, bump out sidewalks to accommodate the outdoor seating.
- b. Creating a simple process that allows business owners to do the bumpouts for outdoor seating similar to Chico.
- c. False storefronts.
- d. Good signage directing to parking and businesses.

**3. What can we do to revitalize our downtown, such as a downtown plaza?**

- a. Provide an amphitheater to accommodate such things as movies in the Park, Farmers Markets, Taco Truck/Food Truck night, large water fountain, etc.. These activities would need to take place on a regular basis, i.e. weekly.
- b. Provide shade structures.
- c. Enforce City regulations such as not allowing broken/Plexiglas windows, etc. An audience member made the suggestion for the City to provide a list to those wishing to locate a business in the City that lists such information as:
  - How to obtain a business license and what is allowed;
  - Maintenance requirements for building appearance; and
  - Ensure structure soundness, landscaping, etc.
- d. Need Ordinances allowing enforcement, and then enforce those Ordinances. City needs to maintain Parks, etc. that they currently have.
  - Possible Ordinances: No broken or boarded up windows. Downtown buildings not allowed to be utilized for storage.
  - Costs for improvements and regulations might be prohibitive.

**4. What is your vision, what do you want to see in this area for the future:**

- a. Bob Williams asked if the City could legally go into the vacant buildings to complete an inspection? Building Official Dan Redding stated not without probable cause,

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however if asked or there is a change in occupancy, etc. he and the Fire Chief can perform a fire life safety inspection. A more extensive inspection such as for asbestos would require a licensed professional inspector at the owners cost. Fire Chief Martin Spannaus stated that his inspection requires knowing the type of business to be housed in the building.

- b. Need to get families/movement downtown through holding regular events, etc.
- c. Suggested creation of a task force consisting of citizens that meet regularly to compile suggestions/actions to be presented for formal action. The Task Force could possibly be sponsored and organized by the Chamber of Commerce. City can provide list of business owners, property owners within the downtown corridor.
- d. It was suggested to not name the group a task force as being called a "Task Force" is off-setting.
- e. The City can provide a meeting place and can respond to questions (legal, etc.) from the "revitalization" group.
- f. Bob Williams stated that at the County level they have researched and mapped land available in the incorporated area to provide contact information for owners and perspective new business seekers. He suggested the City doing this and outlining future plans for these areas. He also suggested creating a list of properties by square footage and detail estimated work needed per each building, i.e. this building is shelf ready; this building may need some work.

- 5. What help can the City provide to business owners to assist repairs to existing buildings?** The City cannot do the work or provide funding, with the exception of low interest grant funds if they are available. Property owners would need to finance.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

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**Lisa M. Linnet, City Clerk**