



City of
Jonesville

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**NEWS RELEASE
CITY OF JONESVILLE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF JONESVILLE APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR FORMER FACTORY

The Jonesville City Council unanimously approved a Pre-Development Agreement with DH Roberts Construction for the former Klein Tool factory at their meeting on Wednesday night. The agreement will give the company 6-months to complete the studies needed to develop a concept plan to redevelop the building.

The company had responded to the City's request for development proposals with a vision of updating the appearance of the building to add storefronts compatible with the Downtown. The request for proposals was driven by input from residents during the development of the 2019 Master Plan that identified redevelopment of the building as the City's top priority. The City received a grant from the State of Michigan that allowed additional environmental study to be completed in 2020. A public open house was held in the fall of 2021, before proposals were requested.

DH Roberts Construction will be studying the feasibility of bringing additional retail, restaurant, indoor recreation, and similar businesses to the site. They will also look at the possibility of market-rate apartments or condominiums for the property. Parking needs will be studied, as well.

Dan Loew, with DH Roberts Construction, told the Council, "We see this as an investment opportunity for us, but also as an opportunity to bring resources into Downtown Jonesville. We are looking forward to working with the City."

Before the City Council took action on the agreement, a review committee made up of members of the Council, Planning Commission, and Downtown Development Authority considered the building proposal. It was also reviewed by the Downtown Development Authority board. Each group met with representatives of DH Roberts Construction before recommending that the City Council approve the agreement.

"We aren't recommending it because it's the only legitimate proposal that we had, it is the one that I would have picked" said DDA Chair and review committee member Don Toffolo. "It goes back to what we were looking for in the first place, something that added to the Downtown and someone with the ability to pull it off. We found them."

DH Roberts Construction has been located in Jonesville for more than 30 years. The company was purchased by Victor Face in 2005. The City Council emphasized the opportunity to work with a family-owned local business with an established reputation of quality work in and around Jonesville. "I am thrilled for the opportunity for the City to partner with DH Roberts Construction on what I think is going to be a great endeavor," said Council and review committee member Andy Penrose.

A real estate transaction to transfer ownership of the property will be negotiated after the concept plan is completed. The company anticipates development taking place on site within the next 3 to 5 years.

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