

MEETING MINUTES

CLARA CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
REGULAR MEETING

Monday
July 13, 2020
12:00 Noon

In Person and by Phone

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA

Members present: Chip Goeman, Robert Schwitters, James Thein, Chad Forkrud, Gary Nelson, Rhonda Pieper (by phone) and Steve Jones

Members absent: None

Staff present: Gene Wenstrom (EDA Consultant, by phone)

Others present: Sam Peterson (Clara City Herald, by phone), Jeffrey Lopez (Chippewa County Commissioner), and Matt Blum (Care Center Administrator)

1. Call to Order—*By President Chip Goeman at 12:02 P.M. A Quorum was declared present.*

2. Additions/Deletions/Modifications/Approval of Agenda

***Action taken:** Upon calling for any additions/deletions/modifications to the draft agenda and receiving none, Chairman Goeman declared the Meeting Agenda to be approved as presented.*

3. Approval of Minutes

3. (A) Regular EDA Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2020.

***Action taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (Forkrud/Nelson) to approve the EDA Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2020, as presented.*

4. Communications/Notices—*None.*

5. Reports from Officers and Committees

5. (A) Financial Report—*Jones reported on the negative balance in the Checking account, (\$8,859.67) and a positive balance (\$52,715.77) in our Loan accounts. He also mentioned that the city had yet to make its annual payment to the EDA.*

5. (B) Loan Servicing Requests, if any—*Staff reported that there were no such requests.*

6. Reports from Staff and Administrative Officers

6. (A) Gene Wenstrom, EDA Consultant, gave an update on the PPP Loans in the community, discussion with local industries, the newspaper article about Almich's Market. In addition, he answered questions about the old Coffee Shop building and other business issues.

7. General Business

OLD BUSINESS

7. (A) Consideration of receiving information from Superintendent Sherri Broderius, MACCRAY I.S.D. # 2180: None

7. (B) Update on the former "Junior High Property": Jones update the board on the discussion he had with the state and others (UMVRDC) about Redevelopment program. It is not likely this grant would be approved the next round unless we had ALL issues (developer, financing, plans and specifications, etc.) worked out well in advance.

7. (C) Update on Small Cities Grant: The city has been awarded the grant. It is not expected that funds will be available until fall/winter. Approximately 8 home owners, 8 rentals, and 4 businesses should receive assistance.

7. (D) Consideration of Tax for the EDA: At their next meeting the city council will be reviewing the issue of allowing the EDA to issue their own tax (per state statutes), versus money coming directly from the city general fund.

7. (E) Update on the issue of small box "Discount Stores": The city council will be reviewing at their next city council meeting the recommendation by the EDA board to have the Planning Commission review the issue of small discount box stores in our community, where they should be placed, and under what restrictions or conditions. The city council will be reviewing an Ordinance, that if approved, could place a one-year moratorium on their construction and direct the Planning Commission time to review the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

7 (F) Consideration of Contribution to the Prairie Waters 2021 Tourism Program: After discussion over who had funded this in the past, the issue was tabled pending review of past assistance by the EDA or the city.

7 G) CARES ACT Funding: Jones updated the board on the approximate \$100,000 coming to the city, and Possibilities for its use. The City Council will review this at their next city council meeting.

8. Announcements: The next meeting of the EDA will be on *Monday, August 10, 2020, 12:00 Noon*.

9. Adjournment—*At 12:27 PM*

ATTEST: _____
Steven C. Jones, Secretary