

MEETING MINUTES

CLARA CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday (Due to Labor Day)
September 7, 2020
12:00 Noon

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA

Members present: Chip Goeman, Robert Schwitters, Gary Nelson (12:07 PM), and Steve Jones

Members absent: James Thein, Chad Forkrud (excused), Rhonda Pieper (excused)

Staff present: Gene Wenstrom (EDA Consultant)

Others present: Sam Peterson (Clara City Herald), Jeffrey Lopez (Chippewa County Commissioner), and Sherri Broderius (MACCRAY Schools)

1. Call to Order—*By President Chip Goeman at 12:03 P.M. (A Quorum was not present until 12:07 PM.)*

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 July 13, 2020.

***Action taken:** M/S/P 2-0 (Schwitters/Goeman) to approve the EDA Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2020, as presented.*

4. Communications/Notices—*None.*

Gary Nelson in attendance (12:07 PM) Quorum now present.

5. Reports from Officers and Committees

5. (A) Financial Report—*Jones reported on the negative balance in the Checking account, (\$8,960) and a positive balance (\$52,700) in our Loan accounts.*

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 impact of COVID-19 in the community, PPE Loans, and his work with a local business on storage needs. In memory of Wayne Schwitters, Wenstrom gave \$500 to the EDA.

7. General Business

OLD BUSINESS

7. (A) Information from Superintendent Sherri Broderius, MACCRAY I.S.D. # 2180: Broderius gave an update on the school construction, timelines, the CUP process with the city, and progress with interior and exterior surfaces. The WECCO project, supported by the EDA, has been active, as has donations to the project.

7. (B) Update on the former “Junior High Property”: Jones informed the board that the building had been secured by the county, after a series of intruders.

7. (C) Update on Small Cities Grant: We are still waiting for State action. It is not expected that funds will be available until later in the fall/winter.

7. (D) Consideration of Tax for the EDA: The city council has action on this tax planned for tonight.

7. (E) Update on the issue of small box “Discount Stores”: The Planning Commission has taken this issue under study.

7. (F) Cares Act Funding: Jones updated the board on the business grant process, and the availability of city and county funds. The city program will end on September 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

7. (G) Gene Wenstrom update the board about progress on a community sign on the Wild Hare Property.

7. (H) Motion by Schwitters, seconded by Nelson, and all aye to formally accept the \$500 donation from Gene Wenstrom in memory of Lowell Schwitters. Wenstrom said the funds could be used by the EDA for any legal use they approved.

7. (I) Goeman talked about the idea of starting a Life Time Achievement Award, or something similar for our community.

7. (J) Mayor Nelson updated the board on the community shingling project, planned for Sept. 18th and 19th at the pool and in the park.

8. Announcements: The next meeting of the EDA will be on *Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 12:00 Noon*.

9. Adjournment—At 12:33 PM

ATTEST: _____
Steven C. Jones, Secretary