

**CITY OF CLARA CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
REGULAR MEETING**

**April 10, 2017
City Hall**

This Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Clara City was called to order by President Chad Forkrud, as Chair, on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 12:00 Noon in the Council Chambers of City Hall in Clara City, MN.

Members present: Chad Forkrud, Chip Goeman, Robert Schwitters, Gary Nelson, Jim Thein, and Windy Block

Members absent: Rhonda Pieper (excused)

Staff present: Gene Wenstrom

Also present: Josie Oliver (Clara City Herald), Tom Cherveney (West Central Tribune), John Gill, and Jeff Lopez (Chippewa County Commissioner)

The Chair declared a Quorum of the members to be present.

Upon solicitation by the Chair for any desired changes to the Agenda and recognizing one such request, *it was moved by Nelson and seconded by Goeman that the draft Agenda be approved with the addition of Agenda Item No. 7 (C-1) Amended Version (April 5, 2017) of the Preliminary Plat for the South Hawk Creek Business Park. The motion passed 6-0.*

At Agenda Item No. 3, there was one set of meeting minutes to be considered. Following an opportunity for review and questions, *it was moved by Nelson and seconded by Thein to approve the Minutes of the Regular EDA Meeting of March 13, 2017, as presented. The motion carried 6-0.*

Under Agenda Section No. 4 "Communications/Notices," there were no items of business to be considered.

At Agenda Section No. 5 "Reports from Officers and Committees," staff reported that the EDA account had no change and was still without a positive balance of funds, having previously invested its assets back into the community. Staff also reported that there were no loan servicing requests to be heard at this time.

At No. 6 "Reports from Staff and Administrative Officers," the EDA Report for April 2017, as authored by Gene Wenstrom, Economic Development Director, was presented and highlighted by Wenstrom for the benefit of the Commissioners. Subjects of the report included: 1) The past success in filling the vacant buildings that were created by the VSC Company going out of business, ultimately helping pave the way for the existence today of Impact Innovations and Kay's Naturals; 2) Age friendly Community Grant Application; 3) Kay's Naturals – Nominated by Wenstrom and winning the Annual Minnesota SBA 2017 Encore Entrepreneur Award; and 4) Sample guidelines for the sale of City/EDA owned land in the South Hawk Creek Business Park. This was reporting only and no specific action was requested nor taken on any of the issues that were discussed.

Under Agenda Item No. 7 (A), consideration was given to opening a review of the EDA's March 13th dialogue with Lane Schwitters, School Board Chair, and Brian Koslofsky, Superintendent for the MACCRAY District No. 2180, regarding the recently defeated school district referendum. Inasmuch as there appeared to be a fair amount of business promotion in the communities of Maynard and Raymond which attempted to tie the outcome of this election to their respective community's survival, the Clara City EDA has been considering the possibility of sponsoring a joint meeting of the EDA's from Maynard, Raymond, and Clara City. Based upon the recent dialogue, what are the thoughts and wishes of the EDA Commissioners regarding the scheduling of such a session of the EDA's from Raymond, Maynard, and Clara City?

Following a far-ranging discussion which was centered on the questions above and the sharing of differing viewpoints by the group participants, the consensus of the Board, per the summary of the Chair, was to have willing volunteer

Board members approach various leaders in any and all of the three communities within the next month and to be prepared to share their findings at the May 8, 2017 EDA regular meeting prior to any final decisions being made. ***Therefore, Chairman Forkrud, without objection, directed that this Agenda Item be placed again on the May 8, 2017, Regular Agenda for reporting and continued consideration.***

At Agenda Item No. 7 (B), consideration was given to reviewing the City's application for and engagement in the Age-friendly Community Building Project as being sponsored by the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging. The Board reviewed a draft copy of the grant submittal as prepared by staff regarding the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging. Following a review of the grant and questions, ***it was moved by Goeman and seconded by Schwitters to authorize the submittal of the EDA's Grant Application for an Age-friendly Community Building Project as prepared by the staff. The motion carried 6-0.***

Under Agenda Item No. 7 (C), consideration was next given to establishing the price for bare land and/or lots in the City/EDA-owned portion of the South Hawk Creek Business Park. Also included may be discussion regarding the setting of policy as to what types and amount of credit ought to be considered for awarding to developers in recognition of the development of jobs and/or taxable building value. As amended by the Board under Agenda Item No. 2, staff presented copies of the Amended Version (April 5, 2017) of the South Hawk Creek Business Park and shared that the Planning Commission had approved it at their April 5, 2017 meeting. Following additional discussion, ***Chairman Forkrud, without objection, directed that this Agenda Item, including the Amended Preliminary Plat for the South Hawk Creek Business Park, be placed again on the Agenda for the May 8, 2017 Regular EDA Meeting for additional Board consideration.***

Director Thein, for business reasons, excused himself from the meeting at 12:30 P.M.

At Agenda Item No. 7 (D), consideration was given to authorizing an advertisement in the Spring Home Improvement Section of the Clara City Herald on April 26, 2017. The Board reviewed an advertising description and pricing sheet as provided by the Clara City Herald. Following a few questions and comments, ***it was moved by Goeman and seconded by Schwitters to authorize the advertising by the EDA via a minimum of ¼ page with full color in conjunction with the City in the Spring Home Improvement Section of the Clara City Herald 's April 26, 2017 edition. The motion passed 5-0.***

The Chair then reminded the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the EDA will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017, 12:00 Noon, at City Hall.

Upon recognizing the completion of the EDA's intended business, ***it was moved by Goeman and seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 and Chair Forkrud declared the meeting adjourned as of 1:03 P.M.***

APPROVED: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Winthro C. Block, Secretary/City Administrator