

MEETING MINUTES

CLARA CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 12, 2021
12:00 Noon

Call-In Number: 1-419-739-2663
Room: 6022
PIN: 2718

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA

Members present: Robert Schwitters, Gary Nelson, Rhonda Pieper, and Steve Jones

Members absent: Chip Goeman, Chad Forkrud, James Thein

Staff present: Gene Wenstrom (EDA Consultant)

Others present: Sam Peterson (Clara City Herald-phone), Sherri Broderius (MACCRAY Schools), County Commissioner Candice Jaenisch (phone), and Lowell Schwitters

1. Call to Order—*By Vice President Robert Schwitters at 12:04 P.M.*
2. Additions/Deletions/Modifications/Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

3. (A) Regular EDA Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2021.

***Action taken:** M/S/P 4-0 (Nelson/Pieper) to approve the EDA Meeting Minutes for March 8, as presented.*

4. Communications/Notices—*None.*

5. Reports from Officers and Committees

5. (A) Financial Report—*No changes from last month.*

5. (B) Loan Servicing Requests, if any—*Staff reported that there were no such requests, but a few discussions, which will be elaborated upon later in the meeting.*

6. Reports from Staff and Administrative Officers:

6. (A) Gene Wenstrom, EDA Consultant, gave an update on issues, including discussions with Massoud about expansion, and with Bruce Hanson about the Wild Hare corner.

7. General Business

OLD BUSINESS

7. (A) Information from Superintendent Sherri Broderius, MACCRAY I.S.D. # 2180: Broderius gave an update on school construction, including expansion of the kindergarten/day care areas. She also mentioned the May 5th WC-CEO event (student businesses). Boring and fencing is going up this week.

7. (B) Update on the former “Junior High Property”: After discussions about possibly demolition, grants, and partnerships, the board directed Jones to pursue advanced action with the county to get the building demolished.

7. (C) Update on Small Cities Grant: Applications are now being processed.

7. (D) Potential Bond Refunding: Plans at still to refinance this fall.

7. (E) Sugar and Spice Site: Jones had supplied the board with various options to go forward, which included putting them up for sale, demolition, or a combination of both. After discussion, M/S/P 3 (Schwitters, Nelson, Jones) to 1 against (Pieper), to get quotes for demolition of the site.

7. (F) Housing Discussion: Lowell Schwitters asked for direction from the Board about pursuing an option on the DuHoux property. How to finance is a concern, as is price and terms. Schwitters and staff were directed to continue with ascertaining financing options. Jones and Wenstrom also updated the board about discussions with Condon on the south side of town.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. (G) Consider Sponsorship of a Free Swim Day and Associated Advertising: The board discussed the upcoming pool season, sponsorship of free swim days, and advertising. During this discussion Wenstrom received confirmation from Bruce Hanson that he will sponsor one of the free swim days. After further discussion, M/S/P 4-0 (Pieper/Nelson) to assist the Free Swim Days with \$500 in advertising.

8. (H) Possible Local Projects: Jones and Wenstrom updated the board about some preliminary discussions we have been having with some local business owners about possible demolition and new construction (storage), as well as a few other ideas. Most are still in the planning stage, but we will continue to offer assistance.

8. (I) Impact of New VA Home in Montevideo: The board had a brief discussion about the impact on the Care Center, staffing, and housing due to the 200+ new jobs in Montevideo, in about two years. This affects decision making we will need to make about housing and other issues.

8. Announcements: The next meeting of the EDA will be on **Monday, May 10, 2021, 12:00 Noon, at City Hall.**

9. Adjournment—**At 1:28 PM**

ATTEST: _____
Steven C. Jones, Secretary

