

EDA
Minutes
June 19, 2019

The Owatonna Economic Development Authority met in regular session at 4:00 PM at the Council Chambers with President Raney presiding. Commissioners Present: Brenda DeVinny, Corey Mensink, Don Boutelle, Kevin Raney, Jeff Okerberg, and Doug Voss. Also present were Troy Klecker, Bill Owens, Brad Meier, and Kristen Kopp.

Approval of Minutes. Commissioner DeVinny moved approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2019 meeting with second by Commissioner Boutelle. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Troy Klecker presented the revenue and expense reports for May. He said that they have yet to use consultant dollars, but will be soon. He said that payments to OPED and the second half of the Chamber and OABDC contracts will be going out in July.

Loan Report. Bill Owens presented the Loan Report for May. All loans are current. He said that he's had inquiries regarding signage and lighting for the EDA forgivable loan. He said that he's had a request for a shower next to the old racquetball court. Klecker said that it likely wouldn't qualify unless it's business related and said that he'd need to take a look at their plan. Raney asked if they continue to get inquiries, could they expand the dollar amount. Klecker said yes, they'd need to keep parameters the same, but they could allocate more dollars so that more businesses can use the loan program. Owens pointed out that the requests so far are mainly for exterior work and perhaps they could reallocate. Voss said that they need to make sure that the word is spread to every business owner. Owens said that Schultz went door to door and Meier added that she has communicated to business owners about the program.

OACCT Report. Chamber Director Brad Meier presented the OACCT Report for May. A Made in Owatonna Day was held in May and highlighted manufacturing and skilled trades careers. More students were interested in these careers after the event. Anisha worked with 80 students and 30 students are working in Steele County businesses. She'll track the outcome and she also plans to do presentations at local businesses. Grow MN retention visits will resume this summer and OPED has at least two additional out of town ownership visits left. He said that the MainStreet design program was the previous night and it went really well. The consultants are working in town today visiting businesses. He thanked the EDA for partnering with MainStreet to make the presentation happen. DeVinny asked how many people attended. Meier said there were thirty or so. He said that this, along with the EDA loan program, will really spur activity downtown. Meier said that this is still a few months away, but the Chamber has two contracts with the EDA that will be up for renewal. He said that hours-wise, they're short on what they're able to have Shirley do and they're looking at other sources of revenue such as sponsors. Raney said that right now Shirley is at 20 hours. He said that he thinks the MainStreet program is going to be extremely important with the streetscaping and he encouraged the board to look at moving Shirley to 30 hours a week as she plays a critical part in the streetscaping. He said that the downtown is important to City Council. Klecker said there may be a State Statute regarding the amount of business the City can do with a Chamber of Commerce; he will check with City Attorney Mark Walbran regarding this.

OABDC Report. Bill Owens presented the OABDC Report for May. He said that it's been a good week. Raney asked how many startup companies are at the Center. Owens said there are four.

EDA Projects. Troy Klecker presented the EDA Projects report for May. He said that there is still a site available for development on the former Hardees/Budget Mart site, although there hasn't been a lot of movement. The Pearl Street apartments are on hold while the Vine Street apartments rent up. There has been some hesitancy because of the new price point, but they are renting up. He said that the vacant lot next to Family Video at 147 West Pearl Street is being marketed. The James Brothers land swap is complete. The City continues to market the former Bubba's building, and they continue to get interest. He said that the consultants looked at their properties. They plan to beef up the signage and increase presence on the website. He said that HK Hospitality does not have anything committed as of yet as it's a complicated project. Okerberg asked if they have purchased the building on W. Bridge Street. Klecker said that they haven't yet, but are in the process of purchasing it for \$22,500. They have to move forward on the new roof and will be getting bids soon.

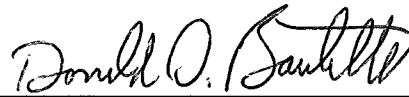
Old Business. Owens clarified with the Commissioners that they are on the same page regarding the new downtown loan program and that they are not securing the loans with mortgages. The applicant has to submit receipts and we reimburse 50%. Voss said that is how he understood it. Mensink said that he's comfortable not doing liens. Voss said it would be fun to see what applicants do if they are comfortable sharing. He said it would give them a portfolio.

Schedule Next Meeting. The next EDA meeting is scheduled for **July 17, 2019** at 4:00 PM at the City Council Chambers.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Mensink and seconded by Commissioner DeVinny to adjourn the meeting. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed. The Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Dated: July 17, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,



Secretary