



Blue Earth Economic Development Authority
Official Proceedings
Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:15 am
City Council Chambers, Blue Earth, MN

Minutes:

- I. Chair Eckles called the meeting to order at the Blue Earth City Council Chambers
- II. Members Present: Bill Rosenau – Secretary/Treasurer, Rick Scholtes, Daryle Pomranke, John Huisman
Members Absent: Brooke Prestegard – Vice President, Kara Drake
City Staff: Tim Ibisch – City Administrator
Chamber Staff: Cindy Lyon – Executive Director
FCDC Staff: Tim Clawson – Executive Director, Beth Moss – Assistant Director
Also Present: Chuck Hunt, Faribault County Register
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - Clawson requested that the agenda be amended to include discussion on the West Industrial Park signage.
 - **Motion was made by Scholtes, seconded by Rosenau to amend and approve the agenda to include the West Industrial Park signage to Other Business. The motion was carried unanimously.**
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - **Motion was made Rosenau, seconded by Pomranke to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 board meeting as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.**
- V. Approval of Bills and Financials
 - Ibisch noted that B & B Sanitation is now servicing the Ag Center with projected savings around \$10,000 per year versus Waste Management.
 - **Motion was made by Rosenau, seconded by Scholtes to approve the Bills and Financials for February, 2016 as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.**
- VI. Correspondence, Budget Update and Staff Update.
 - a. Correspondences
 - None
 - b. Existing Loan/Grant Updates
 - Ibisch noted that all loans are current. It is anticipated that over the next few months there will be an influx of new loans on the books for the Construction Mitigation Loan due to the Main Street Reconstruction project.
 - The City auditors have inquired about the delinquent loan for Fly-Away and whether or not this is something that should be written off.
 - c. Chamber of Commerce Update – Cindy Lyon
 - Lyon and Ibisch met with Representative Gunther and prepared a proposal which has been submitted to the state legislature requesting \$300,000 in bonding for the Giant Museum and Visitor's Center.
 - The Chamber has four new members: Elmore Assisted Living, Corey Walter of Gateway to Adventure Travel Agency, Bruce Lyon and Twisted Vine Floral which brings the total



new members for 2015-2016 to 33. There are five prospective members in which the Chamber will be visiting with over the next few weeks.

- Clawson noted that the Chamber of Commerce was approved for a \$60,000 loan in which they will initially only draw \$50,000 from but have the ability to draw on the remainder within a year.

d. City Administrator Update

- Ibisch noted that Mark Daly was contacted requesting approval to close down parts of Main Street for removal of awnings on Sunday, March 20th. The costs associated with the removal of the 3 Sisters awnings is initially being covered by Jack Heinitz who will then be reimbursed by the City which will turn around and bill the owner of the buildings.
- The two year construction project of North Main Street is set to begin July 25, 2016 after the conclusion of the Faribault County Fair.
- The County will be opening at the Ag Center on March 21, 2016 which will bring in an additional \$2,000 a month.

e. FCDC Update

- FCDC presented the Main Street Renewal Funding Workshop. During this time staff met with various downtown businesses and discussed funding options available. At the beginning of April business will be receiving information outlining the Construction Mitigation Program available to them.
- FCDC is collaborating with the South Central Workforce Group to match the training needs with those of the workforce in the county.
- FCDC is hosting their Annual Meeting on March 30, 2016 at the Riverside Town & Country Club.

VII. New Business:

a. Commercial Building Exterior Improvement Grant Applications

- Clawson presented an application for the Faribault County Register for the removal and replacement of the back entrance steps. Quotes from Moore Construction and Smith Construction were included with the application.

Motion was made by Scholtes, seconded by Huisman to approve the Commercial Building Exterior Improvement Grant up to \$1,380. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Juba's Supervalu

Clawson presented an application for Juba's Supervalu to update and replace the current signs. Quotes from Sign Pro, M & M Signs and Precision Signs were included with the application.

Motion was made by Scholtes, seconded by Huisman to approve the Commercial Building Exterior Improvement Grant up to \$10,000. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Michele's Quilting & Sewing Center

Clawson presented an application for Michele's Quilting and Sewing Center for the removal of awnings and replacement of the back entrance cement and siding. A quote was provided from Pat Murphy.

Motion was made by Huisman, seconded by Rosenau to approve the Commercial Building Exterior Improvement Grant up to \$2,390. The motion was carried unanimously.



VIII. Old Business:

a. Ag Center Parking Lot Grant Update

- FCDC received approval for the Community Partners Grant. The contract has been signed by Clawson on behalf of FCDC and Ibsch has signed on behalf of the land owner.
- Ibsch noted that he spoke with Michele Wigern of Faribault County SWCD and discussed as to whether upgrades should be made to the adjacent parking lot to the north at the same time.

b. Workforce Housing Update

- Clawson noted that they continue to look for volunteers to serve on the task force which will meet every other week to discuss the development process.
- There are a variety of groups which provide funding for workforce housing initiatives such as the Greater MN Partnership and the Southwest MN Partnership.
- Ibsch noted that the location for the workforce housing still needs to be zoned for residential use.

c. Golden Spike Business Park Update

- The Faribault County Register contacted FCDC to inquire about participating in the Chamber of Commerce 2016 Visitors Guide. The cost of the space is \$800 and was previously split between FCDC and the BE EDA. Clawson looked for approval from the board for cost sharing again this year.
- **Motion was made by Scholtes, seconded by Huisman to pay \$400, half of the shared cost with FCDC for the placement of an ad on the back cover of the Chamber of Commerce 2016 Visitors Guide. The motion was carried unanimously.**

IX. Other Business:

a. West Industrial Park Signage

- Pomranke expressed the need for signage to the West Industrial Park as there is currently nothing to direct trucks coming in on Highway 169 to that area. It was also suggested that signage direct traffic to Guckeen in order to catch 1-90 west.
- Ibsch stated that he would reach out to Mark Daly and work on signage that would direct traffic to Guckeen.
- Scholtes noted that once the location of the sign placement can be determined the City will reach out to MN DOT to obtain the permits required.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Huisman, seconded by Scholtes to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Next regular meeting scheduled for April 14, 2016 at 7:15 am