

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Hughes at 6:50 a.m.

Members Present: Jim Beal, Brooke Wach, John Whittington, Brian Hughes, Anthony White, and Tony Dickmeyer

Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland and Kerry Rausch

Approval of Agenda

Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was presented.

New Business

1. Strategic Economic Development Planning Process with Region 9

- The residential survey will be mailed later this week. There is a QR code residents can scan to complete the survey online. If residents choose to complete the survey via the paper copy, they can return them to City Hall
- Region Nine asked about offering a prize for a photo contest. Staff contacted Southern MN Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and they will allow using \$100 of the grant funds for prizes for photo contest winners.

2. Forgivable Child Care Loan Program – Little Sprouts

- Administrator Bromeland provided a recap stating that in 2018 the City met with Blue Earth County to discuss childcare challenges. Blue Earth County had funds available and put together a forgivable childcare loan program. Benefactors of these loans would only make interest payments on the loans if they stayed in business for five years. After the five-year period the loan amount would be forgiven. The City of Eagle Lake was allocated \$35,000, with loans being awarded to Hammond Care, Star Light Learning Center, and Little Sprouts.
- Little Sprouts was awarded \$19,142.62 and have drawn \$3,876.89, leaving of balance of \$15,265.73. This delay in using funds was not envisioned and Blue Earth County requires them to use the funds for items originally submitted with their application. The owners have expressed interest in returning unused funds. The unused funds are held with the City. This item will go in front of the City Council at the May City Council meeting before being returned to Blue Earth County.
- If there are other childcare providers interested in applying for these funds, they can.

3. Other Items of Discussion

- Motorsports Park – the developer will be at the May city council meeting to give an update on the proposed project and his plans.
- All Seasons Arena (ASA) – Anthony White explained that at tomorrow's ASA Board meeting they will discuss upgrades needed to the facility and how much it will cost. Administrator Bromeland will be attending tomorrow's ASA Board meeting too.

- Barriers to Development - general discussion included potential barriers businesses encounter when looking to come to Eagle Lake such as acquiring land for commercial development.
- The Fox Meadow proposed development was reviewed along with timeline and processes.
- Lutter Avenue - access was discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.