

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Hughes at 6:45 a.m.

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

Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland and Kerry Rausch

Guest: Alejandra Bejarano with Region 9

Approval of Agenda:

Treasurer's Report

New Business

1. Strategic Economic Development Planning Process with Region 9
 - a. Report Presentation
 - Alejandra Bejarano with Region 9 presented the final draft of the Strategic Economic Development Plan. Once the editing is complete, a link to the document will be provided to the EDA and participants to review the report.
 - Included in the presentation was the process to get to this point, which included looking at affordable housing, job markets, wages, residential demographics, age groups, the housing market and home costs trends, as well as population growth projections, and a SWOT analysis exercise.
 - Ideas to increase communication with residents was discussed.
 - The next steps include sharing the plan with residents and obtaining their feedback and then bringing the final document to the December City Council meeting.
2. Business Visits
 - Administrator Bromeland asked the EDA to consider dividing up local businesses and have EDA members go with staff to meet with business owners.
 - Administrator Bromeland explained that Little Sprouts has changed ownership and that she has been in contact with the new owner to let her know of the opportunities for childcare funding through the Blue Earth County Childcare Loan program.
 - Mike Bales Freedom Security still has one year to pull a permit for the commercial property he purchased from the City.
 - The rezoning and preliminary plat have been approved for the Fox Meadows development. The final plat will go before Council at the December meeting.
 - MAPO will present the results of the Sidewalk Connectivity Study at the November City Council meeting. The next step will be to work on funding.

Adjournment

The meeting Adjourned at 8:14 a.m.