

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Thursday, August 27, 2020 – GoTo Meeting

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Administrator Bromeland at 6:48 a.m.

**Present:** Brooke Wach, John Whittington, Christine Black-Hughes, Brian Hughes, Jim Beal, Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, and Administrative Clerk Mandy Auringer

**Not Present:** Dennis Terrell and John Ries

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report was presented.

### **New Business**

#### 1. Eagle Lake Business Assistance Program

- Administrator Bromeland stated that cities across Minnesota, including Eagle Lake, certified their eligibility to receive federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) distributions to help respond to the COVID-19 health pandemic. The fund, created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is designed to provide economic help to entities struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As per guidance from the Department of Treasury and the League of MN Cities, cities and EDAs have some options to assist businesses that were ordered closed or are struggling financially because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Recently, Blue Earth County announced a business assistance program to assist small businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 health pandemic. Eligible businesses may apply for a one-time grant in the amount of \$10,000 per applicant. Administrator Bromeland proposed replicating a similar program for Eagle Lake businesses using CRF dollars but on a smaller scale. She said that she reached out to the city attorney and auditor for guidance on offering a business assistance program. She said she also reached out to a handful of Eagle Lake businesses to gauge interest if such a program were offered. Per her inquiry to Blue Earth County, two Eagle Lake businesses currently have applied for the County business assistance program. A City email was sent all Eagle Lake businesses informing of the Blue Earth County Business Assistance Program. Discussion ensued about mirroring the eligibility requirements of BE County and approving grants in an amount up to \$10,000 per applicant. Administrator Bromeland will review the proposed program with the City Council at their special meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> and send information out to the EDA and businesses after that with anticipation that the grant requests can be formally approved by the City Council at their October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Jim Beal stated that he believes the EDA should support our area businesses. Administrator Bromeland agreed and added we should utilize the money available to stimulate our local economy and help businesses that are struggling due to COVID-19.
- John Whittington stated a concern of making sure this was a grant not a loan due to the strict reporting guidelines. Administrator Bromeland confirmed this a grant and the City

only needs to report how much money is being put toward the grants and how many businesses receive the grants when completing the required monthly report with the state.

- Jim Beal moved to start the Eagle Lake Business Assistant Program offering the eligible businesses a one-time grant of up to \$10,000. Brooke Wach seconded. A roll call was taken with all in favor. The motion carried.

## 2. Miscellaneous Updates

- Mankato Motorsports Park: A group of people have filed an appeal of the Council's decision on the approval of the EAW and determination that an EIS is not necessary. Administrator Bromeland stated that the process is likely to take anywhere from 9 months-1 year and that the developer can continue with the building and zoning process at his risk.
- Park Board: The park Board is raising funds to upgrade our area parks and construct the new Eagle Heights Park.
- Outdoor Movie: Cancelled for September 11. Rec on the Go will be held this fall with social distancing and health and safety precautions in place.
- Covid Impact on Residents: There have not been very many delinquent bills. Kerry and Mandy are reaching out to the few residents to hopefully set up payment plans.
- Water Clarity: In response to come complaints, we are undertaking a water study to see if there are things we can do to improve our water quality.
- Mosquito Spraying: Brian Hughes would like to see the pond behind his home and playground at the school sprayed. Brooke Wach would like to look into the speed of the sprayer truck.
- Construction: The City is working with KJ Walk to replace a run of cracked pipe in the development. They have 1 permit pulled and approved for a new home. RingBaum has started the two triplexes.

## **Adjourn**

Brian Hughes moved, seconded by John Whittington to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 a.m. Motion carried.