

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AGENDA**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

**Call to Order**

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

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

Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland and Kerry Rausch

**Approval of Agenda**

- Approval of the agenda carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

- The Treasurer's report was presented.
- Discussion included the possibility of moving funds from the bank account into the 4M account. City staff will look into what action is needed before transferring funds into the 4M account to realize a higher return.

**New Business**

1. Child Care

- Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP) Update
  - Administrator Bromeland explained that John Whittington, Brian Hughes and herself are members of this board which has been a labor-intensive process which started in June 2024. The program started with a six hour on-boarding process to learn of childcare issues. Each member has been assigned to a subcommittee. They have hosted a provider appreciation event in October and a town hall event in November which provided good, vibrant discussion. The group has now entered the implementation stage.
  - It is anticipated the group will continue its work in 2025 and start looking at solutions in 2026.
  - The following goals have been identified: 1)-form a childcare committee that forms connections provides support and shows appreciation, 2)-the core team will explore and compile a hub of resources to help both providers and families, 3)-explore facilities for the purpose of creating more childcare capacity, 4)-identify key items providers need to pay for regularly and find funding solutions for them to help relieve some financial burden, 5)-have at least one funded childcare work study to try to help people interested in a career in childcare by the end of 2026.
- Child Care Shortage in Eagle Lake
  - At the beginning of the process Eagle Lake had eight in-home childcare facilities and two center-based facilities and now has 5 in-home facilities and one center-based facility. One childcare center has closed.
  - Discussion included ways the RCCIP members have looked into addressing facility closures and possible sites for more center based childcare facilities.

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the group is exploring options with Blue Earth County and their childcare forgivable loan program.

2. Schedule Business Visits

- Administrator Bromeland said it would be great to try and schedule business visits with 3 newer businesses. EDA members Jim Beal, Christine Black-Hughes, Anthony White, and John Whittington volunteered to attend these visits as their schedules allow.

3. 94<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Legislative Session

- Issues Important to Eagle Lake
  - Administrator Bromeland stated she and Mayor Whittington will be attending upcoming legislative action days for the League of Minnesota Cities and the Coalition of Greater MN Cities and will be meeting with legislators about funding for the water treatment project. It was noted that an updated capital budget request has been submitted for the water treatment funding request. Other items discussed as important included childcare initiatives, economic development, housing, and other topics impacting greater MN cities like Eagle Lake.

4. Other Items

- The Community Development Coordinator position remains vacant. An offer was extended and the candidate initially accepted the offer but then ultimately declined the offer after receiving a counteroffer from his current employer. Applications are still being received but candidates are not meeting the position requirements and therefore not moving ahead in the process.
- Connectivity was discussed. The need to extend the trail on 598<sup>th</sup> is on the City's list of future projects. The trail on Agency Street, in the area of Thomas Drive, has been awarded federal funds but the city and county are currently working to secure state funding to help offset the local share which will be split between the City and County. The project is slated for a timeframe of 2026-2027.
- The Active Adults group has been well attended and is doing well.

**Adjournment**

- The Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rausch