

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brooke Wach, Tony Dickmeyer, Christine Black-Hughes, Brian Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Anthony White, Jim Beal, John Whittington

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jennifer Bromeland, City Administrator; and Olivia Adomabea, Community Development Coordinator.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Wach Brooke approved the agenda and was seconded by Christine Black-Hughes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Tony Dickmeyer approved the minutes and seconded by Wach Brooke

TREASURERS REPORT:

The treasurer's report was presented by City Administrator Bromeland.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Rural Childcare Development:** Community Development Coordinator Adomabea explained what the program entailed and informed commissioners to expect emails from First Children's Finance. She continued by saying that the EDA, City Council, and other

organizations including GMG, Region 9, and others have been added to a core team. According to her, the primary objective of the program is to identify the aspects of childcare that require attention and to propose remedies.

- Commissioner Black-Hughes asked if private childcare providers are included in this program. Coordinator Adomabea responded in affirmative. Also, Commissioner Hughes added that he read there are some funds available for childcare and asked how the funds are disbursed. City Administrator Bromeland responded that there are funds available for childcare and that each grant opportunity would have to be researched to learn eligibility requirements and how the funds are distributed to providers. Administrator Bromeland also added that the City is working with Mankato Area Public Schools to talk about ways to utilize existing space to help fill in gaps in childcare in the community. It was stressed that in conversations with the school that the goal is to fill in gaps where childcare is needed and not compete with what is already being offered in the community. It was noted that there will be a meeting with child care providers in April at City Hall and geared as a listening session to learn more about challenges and issues that they are facing.

OTHERS:

1. Update on the LOIS APP: Coordinator Adomabea explained that LOIS is a national online location analysis tool designed for communities and economic development organizations to promote available sites and building inventory. With its integrated GIS component, the tool uses customizable layers with market information, demographics, workforce, infrastructure, housing, business, and industry. She further mentioned that two sites in the city have been published on the app and more properties and locations will be added as soon as staff gets information on them.
2. REDA Update: Coordinator Adomabea updated the EDA on the Regional Economic Development Alliance held at city hall on the 14th of February. Coordinator Adomabea made a summary of the topics spoken at the conference that, in her opinion, relate to Eagle Lake. She said that it would be great if the city looked more closely at solar and clean energy options. She added that the city could look at public structures such as city hall and public works for solar energy considerations. Also, she mentioned that REDA is

encouraging members to be a part of the REDA communication workplans and so if the city has any information, they will want REDA to publish the city can do so by reaching out to REDA.

3. Update on Motorsport Park: Coordinator Adomabea updated the EDA that the motorsport park project fell through so the city is looking at other potential or alternative land use that could go to the site. She mentioned that discussions have ensued between staff, GMG, and Xcel Energy to look at funding programs for utility and site study and other studies that will benefit the development of the site. She further explained that at one of the meetings with Xcel Energy and GMG, one recommendation that came from Xcel was to utilize an Alternative Urban Areawide Review Process in the planning because of community engagement components.
4. Legislation Updates: Administrator Bromeland shared with the EDA that she recently visited with legislators in St. Paul along with Eagle Lake's Mayor Lisa Norton and Council Member John Whittington to talk about the City's funding request for half of the overall anticipated total project cost for a new water treatment facility. It was explained that while Eagle Lake's water meets the safe drinking water act standards, recent testing indicates that our water has high levels of manganese creating a health and safety concern for residents, especially infants. It was further explained that the city is unable to treat its water for manganese with the current setup and that a treatment facility is needed. Administrator Bromeland requested that the EDA submit a letter of support for the funding request as it is a quality-of-life issue for residents and is correlated to economic development and the continued growth of our community.
5. Update on EDA Annual Conference: Coordinator Adomabea shared her experience of the conference and the sessions she attended. She mentioned that the conference was very educational and informative as she got to learn about the rural childcare program and other exciting EDA projects that the city can learn from and pursue.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.