

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

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

Present: Brian Hughes, Jim Beal, John Whittington, Tony Dickmeyer, and Brooke Wach.  
Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland and Kerry Rausch

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented with Administrator Bromeland stating that she recently spoke to a party that may be interested in seeking a RLF loan and another party that may be interested in submitting a forgivable childcare loan application.

**New Business**

1. Welcome Packet Concept

- EDA members reviewed sample bags for a welcome packet and expressed an interest in reusable bags as a first choice and biodegradable bags as a second choice.
- Brian Hughes will contact the promotion company next to his business to learn what they may have to offer for promotional bags.
- Administrator Bromeland or the new Community Development Coordinator will reach out to local businesses to learn if they would be interested in participating in a welcome packet and learn what they may want to include in the packet. This is a project that will need to be maintained by staff.

2. Greater Mankato 2040 Regional Think-Tank Workshops

- Administrator Bromeland explained that Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) hired a consultant and that a think tank for strategic planning has been organized.
- EDA members were encouraged to participate in the survey to provide feedback and if possible, to participate in the workshops. GMG is looking for input from stakeholders. More information will be provided once available.

3. Update on Newly Hired Community Development Coordinator

- Administrator Bromeland explained that a hiring committee comprised of John Whittington and Beth Rohrich of the personnel committee along with a representative from the EDA and Planning Commission and herself interviewed four candidates and CEDA, as a possible contracted agency, for the newly created Community Development Coordination position.
- The City Council authorized the hiring of Olivia Adomabea to fill the newly created Community Development Coordinator position.

4. Other Miscellaneous Updates

- a. Upcoming REDA Joint Services Agreement Discussion
  - The next REDA meeting will include discussion on per capita membership rates. Administrator Bromeland stated she will be attending the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting which is

from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. meeting and asked Jim Beal if he would like to attend as well because of his knowledge of REDA and being a part of when it started.

- b. Legislative Updates
  - Administrator Bromeland stated there is a lot going on this session. The City has a funding request included in the bonding bill for the design work needed for a water treatment project.
  - Administrator Bromeland and Mayor Norton testified at the capital on behalf of the City's request. Administrator Bromeland also attended the City of Mankato's testimony to show support for their project request in the bonding bill since this directly affects the residents of Eagle Lake.
- c. Forgivable Child Care Loan Program and Financial Review Change
  - Administrator Bromeland stated she is working with a provider who may be applying shortly. It was noted that in the past RCEF assisted with the business plan and financial review. Blue Earth County no longer funds RCEF.
- d. Prospective Business Inquiries
  - Administrator Bromeland shared that there has been an uptick in inquiries from potential businesses about land and available.
- e. Housing
  - Administrator Bromeland shared that there is a 20 unit townhome development being proposed on the northeast side of Eagle Lake that is working its way through the planning and zoning approval process.
- f. Connectivity
  - Administrator Bromeland reported that an application for funding was submitted for a connectivity project on the SE side of Eagle Lake.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Submitted by:  
Kerry Rausch  
Deputy Clerk