

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Hughes at 6:49 a.m.  
Members Present: John Whittington, Brooke Wach, Anthony White, Jim Beal, Brian Hughes, Christine Black-Hughes, and Tony Dickmeyer  
Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland and Kerry Rausch

**Approval of Agenda**

- The agenda was approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

- The treasurer's report was presented.
- Administrator Bromeland stated Community Development Coordinator Olivia Adomaba will be working with loan requests when received.

**New Business**

- None

**Other-Administrator Updates**

1. Little Sprouts Forgivable Loan Program Request Approved by Blue Earth County
  - Administrator Bromeland stated that she presented the forgivable loan request for Little Sprouts to Blue Earth County and that the request was approved. The City will receive the paperwork from the County.
2. Highway 14 Safety Concerns and Corridor Study Request Submitted
  - Administrator Bromeland explained the City Council held a special council meeting on May 22nd regarding Highway 14 safety concerns. Initially the City of Eagle Lake asked for a study of the three intersections for Eagle Lake. Scott Thompson with MnDOT indicated their interest in looking at a study of the Highway 14 corridor from County Road 12 to Highway 60. This study would be lead by MAPO with the City of Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County, and MnDOT as partners in the study. Administrator Bromeland explained that she has been in contact with Ryan Thilges with Blue Earth County and Greg Ous with MnDOT regarding this study as well.
  - The EDA along with the City Council needs to keep in mind future development and the need to acquire right of ways north of Highway 14 for future road design options. MAPO will receive the city's request for the study and should begin in 2024.
3. Transportation Alternatives Grant Award for Pedestrian Connectivity Project
  - Administrator Bromeland stated she submitted an application for the Pedestrian Connectivity Project and that the City received \$475,000 which will include two sidewalk segments and a trail segment along 211<sup>th</sup> Street and S Agency. There is a local share component which includes the City of Eagle Lake and Blue Earth County. It is anticipated that the earliest this project will begin is 2024.

4. Upcoming Region 9 Bus Tour (June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.)
  - Alejandra Bejarano and Nate George with Region Nine will be present to give information about the Eagle Lake Strategic Development Plan they worked on. Eagle Lake will be the first stop on this tour.
  - Administrator Bromeland encouraged EDA members to attend this stop on the tour.
5. REDA Joint Services Agreement and Next Steps
  - Administrator Bromeland, Community Development Coordinator Adomaba and Jim Beal attended the recent REDA meeting which was held in Eagle Lake. REDA will schedule a time to attend an Eagle Lake City Council or EDA meeting.
  - Administrator Bromeland stated it is important for the City to ask questions and to learn how the city benefits from their services. The new joint services agreement will go into effect in January 2024 upon being signed. At this time the City has not signed the agreement.
  - Administrator Bromeland will update the EDA when a meeting date has been scheduled.
6. Eagle Lake's New Community Development Coordinator will be at the June EDA Meeting
  - Community Development Coordinator, Olivia Adomaba, will begin working full-time June 1<sup>st</sup> and will attend the next EDA meeting. She is working on the welcome bags and has received items for the bags from a couple of businesses. The feedback from businesses resulting from the letter mailed has been positive.
  - Brooke Wach stated that she spoke to a former renter of Eagle Lake and asked them if they felt like part of the community as a renter and their response was no. When asked if they would have received a welcome bag if that would have helped and they said it would have. Administrator Bromeland stated that Eagle Lake does have a high number of rental units and it is important renters feel they are part of the community.

### **General Discussions**

1. Freedom Security – Administrator Bromeland has reached out to Mr. Bales and will continue to do so.
2. Mankato Motorsports Park –it was noted that no updates are available at this time as a second appeal was filed and following the legal process for an appeal.
3. New developments are required to pay a park dedication fee if they are not dedicating parkland.
4. County Road 27 repaving work is being done by Blue Earth County.
5. Jim Beal stated there is a section of 598<sup>th</sup> Avenue that does not have a trail and in that area there are several people who use the road itself to walk, bike, and use wheelchairs. It may be pertinent for the City of look into extending the path.
6. The state's bonding bill did not include line an item specifically for the City of Eagle Lake, however, there may be other sources which can be looked into.
7. Interior work on the water tower is taking place. When the interior work is completed the exterior work will begin. The goal is to have this project completed by July's Music on Parkway event.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 a.m.