

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 27, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brooke Wach, Anthony White, Jim Beal, Tony Dickmeyer, John Whittington,

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Brian Hughes, Christine Black-Hughes

STAFF PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC PRESENT:

- Jan Hughes

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- None

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) Joint Service.

- Jessica Beyer, President and CEO of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. gave an introduction on what the joint service is about and introduced the team she works with to the EDA. Jessica noted how grateful GMG was to have the city of Eagle Lake as one of its partners. Jessica was with Ryan Vesey, the Economic Development & Research Manager for GMG.
- Mr. Vesey gave a presentation on the role of GMG and highlighted the strategies put in place for sustainable development and growth for the Greater Mankato Area/Region. Among the goals of GMG but not limited is creating business retention and expansion plans, new enterprise and emerging business development, new business development, marketplace enhancements etc. says Mr. Vesey.

- Mr. Vesey continued with his presentation highlighting the new means of communication introduced by GMG. He indicated billboard campaigns, Facebook campaign, KEYC-Digital Ad Campaign etc. as the means of communication. Mr. Vesey further shared with the EDA the number of streaming, response, and impressions these means of communication have received. He also shared with the EDA, the 2023 Partnership Contribution and the per capita rate adjustment, breakdown of funds and how well funds are spent. He also shared that GMG has visited some businesses in the city as part of its BR&E program.
 - EDA member Beal, after Vesey's presentation asked a question about business retentions and what is accounting for the loss of employees.
 - Mr. Vesey responded saying that one of the reasons is that people want to be their own boss these days, hence leaving their jobs and establishing their own business.
 - EDA member Whittington asked what GMG will recommend for Eagle Lake's business growth.
 - Mr. Vesey responded by recommending that the city rezoned some of its commercial district along HWY 14 and parkway to industrial districts. That will go a long way to creating jobs in the city.
2. Review updated/final building design of Freedom Security.
- Mr. Mike Bales from Freedom Security presented his concept plans for lots 301 and 305 to the EDA for their review. Mr. Bales mentioned that the main Office Door will be facing East/Parkway Ave and the West Office Door will be Full Glass Aluminum Storefront Doors, with the Shop being painted steel. The Office windows will be white like to graphic shows and show how the Split Faced block will look and the color to be used.
 - Administrator Bromeland noted that there are zoning setbacks and requirements for signage and recommended that the location of the sign proposed by Mr. Bales be revised to meet the zoning requirements.
 - EDA member Beal asked if the front of the building can be revised to face Parkway Avenue.
 - Mr. Bales responded saying that that was his initial design but the EDA at the time asked him to change it. That's why he changed it to face the other side of Parkway Avenue.
 - EDA members asked MR. Bales to move on with the next phase of the project which will be the lot consolidation process to combine the two lots (lot 301 and 305).

OTHERS:

1. Coordinator Adomabea updated the EDA on Welcome Bag. EDA members decided on the type of bag to be used and selected a logo for the bag.
2. Coordinator Adomabea updated the EDA on the Business Retention and Expansion Program. In her update she mentioned that two responses had been received from the survey that was sent to local businesses. A visit to Farm Bureau Financial Services was scheduled and EDA member Anthony White agreed to visit with city staff. Coordinator Adomabea noted that EDA members will be made aware when a business calls for a visit so at least one EDA member can go with city staff.
3. There was a discussion on prospective sites and grants available for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations/Infrastructure. EDA member Beal noted that the city was not ready for EV

infrastructure now hence be placed on hold for some time. All other commissioners present agreed.

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