

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.

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brian Hughes, Brooke Wach, Jim Beal, John Whittington, Tony Dickmeyer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Anthony White, Christine Black-Hughes

STAFF PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC PRESENT:

- None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Motion by Tom Dickmeyer and seconded by John Whittington. -Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Jim Beal, seconded by John Whittington. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rural Childcare Development Program

- Coordinator Adomabea updated the EDA about meeting with First Children's Finance for the on-boarding meeting which is scheduled for June 5, 2024. She explained that the meeting will take about 6hrs (9am-3pm) and is very important to have all EDA members who are part of the core team attend. Coordinator Adomabea continued to share that the childcare program or study will have core team members go through series of training and meetings which includes but not limited to on-boarding meetings (6hrs), planning meeting (4hrs in person), monthly core team meetings throughout the process (1hr each), childcare appreciation event (4-5hrs event), town hall meeting, implementation retreat, project team meetings, community launch and many other activities throughout the study. Coordinator Adomabea added that it is important for all core team members to be present at all future meetings and activities. She also gave the core team member commitment to

expectations form to members of the EDA who are core team members to sign the form. Discussions ensued.

2. EDA BR&E Visit Schedule for Spring and Summer

- Coordinator Adomabea reminded the EDA of the Business Retention and Expansion Program that started last year and requested that EDA members share their schedule or availability for the visits with her to local businesses and discussions ensued.

OTHERS:

1. Update on Energy Smart Forum

- Coordinator Adomabea shared that she attended a Lunch and Learn forum with Administrator Bromeland on discovering how Energy Smart supports businesses. Energy Smart is a company that consults with local businesses to help educate and reduce energy usage and identify how much energy businesses need and help them find a way to save. Coordinator Adomabea also shared that they work with local utilities and cities to connect one to rebates and grant programs that make being sustainable an affordable option. Discussions ensued and was recommended that local businesses be informed about this initiative by Energy Smart.

2. Update on Highway 14.

- Administrator Bromeland updated the EDA on Highway 14 Corridor Study. She mentioned that the study is at the preliminary and data collection or gathering stage and more information will be provided when necessary. Discussions ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:52am.

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brooke Wach, Brian Hughes, Anthony White, Jim Beal

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Tony Dickmeyer, John Whittington, Christine Black-Hughes

STAFF PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Jim Beal moved for the approval of the agenda and was seconded by Wach Brooke

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Jim Beal moved for the approval of the minutes and was seconded by Wach Brooke

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. EV Charging Infrastructure: Coordinator Adomabea gave a brief report of her findings on federal and state funds available for EV charging infrastructure in the city. Discussions ensued and this item was tabled till next year while staff will continue researching state and federal grants available for smaller cities like Eagle Lake.

OTHERS:

1. Update on Rural Childcare Development Program: Administrator Bromeland updated the EDA on the progress of the Rural Childcare Program facilitated by First Children's Finance. She further mentioned that the program has different sessions that require core team members to participate in. According to Administrator Bromeland, the team has already gone through the onboarding process and planning meeting for the program and is looking forward to monthly core team meetings throughout the RCCIP process. The next event or activity will be a childcare appreciation event she noted.
2. Resignation of Community Development Coordinator: Administrator Bromeland informed the EDA of the resignation of the Community Development Coordinator- Olivia Adomabea and that her last day with the city is on July 26th, 2024.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, November 21, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brian Hughes.

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

Staff Present: Administrator Jennifer Bromeland and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch

Approval of Agenda:

- John Whittington moved, seconded by Brooke Wach, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer's report was presented.
- Tony Dickmeyer moved, seconded by John Whittington, to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Holiday Mailer

- Administrator Bromeland stated a holiday house is being planned for Friday, December 6th and that this event was well attended last year. Refreshments will be donated.
- A holiday mailer will be sent to residents upon the EDA's approval. The cost of last year's mailer was \$322.01. Discussion included the possibility of including in the mailer a list of Eagle Lake businesses.
- Anthony White moved, seconded by Tony Dickmeyer, to approve send a holiday mailer to residents. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Letter of Support Request from GMG for Main Street Economic Revitalization Program Grant Application (Round Two of Funding)

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the EDA wrote a letter of support for Greater Mankato Growth's first round of funding in which they received over \$1M in funding. Eagle Lake benefited from this funding with Freedom Security receiving funding and establishing their business in Eagle Lake.
- Greater Mankato Growth is looking to apply for the second round of funding and has requested the EDA to consider writing a letter of support.
- Tony Dickmeyer moved, seconded by Anthony White, to authorize staff to write a letter of support for Greater Mankato Growth. The motion carried unanimously.

Other:

1. Recap of Recent Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP) Provider Appreciation Event and Town Hall Event
 - Administrator Bromeland stated a Rural Child Care Innovation Appreciation Event was held in October for childcare providers.
 - Last night about 30 people signed up for the RCCIP Town Hall Event. There was a meal, presentation and small group discussion aimed at identifying categories in childcare in which changes would be beneficial. Attendees included childcare providers, community members, Region 9, Blue Earth County, and Lutheran Social Services' Crisis Nursery.
 - The biggest challenges identified were retaining workers and burn out.

2. CDC position
 - Administrator Bromeland explained that an offer was extended but the person ended up declining. The position was advertised again with Minnesota Valley Council of Governments screening the applications. Administrator Bromeland will be contacting MSU-Mankato for help in identifying potential candidates.

Adjournment:

Tony Dickmeyer moved, seconded by Anthony White, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rausch
Deputy Clerk