

MINUTES OF KASSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING January 6, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Kasson EDA was held at City Hall this 6th day of January, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Stevenson, Peterson, Langan, Sturgis, Eggler, Johnson and Wegner

Absent: None

The following staff members were present: Mike Martin, Community Development Director, City Clerk Rappe, Finance Director Zaworski

Also Present: Mark Anderson and Gretta Becay

OATH OF OFFICE: Clerk Rappe administered the Oath of Office to Jeff Stevenson

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 12:00

MINUTES: Motion for approval of the meeting minutes from December 2, 2014 made by Wegner, seconded by Peterson, All Ayes.

COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS SEARCH PLAN: Chair Stevenson recalled that Kasson residents were surveyed some years ago as to what improvements they would like to see in their community. The Chairman suggested that the EDA might create a plan to implement some of the wishes expressed by the citizens in those surveys. Development Director Martin explained that this discussion has come up at least every other year for the past 6 years whether we should go out and actively recruit businesses. The consensus has been not to actively recruit. Chairman Stevenson pointed out that surveys that have been done showed that citizens would like to see senior housing and dining options. Stevenson stated that with Rochester's DMC people will be looking for places to live and we have great schools and grocery store. By consensus the Community Development Director was directed to prepare a Draft Plan that would define how the EDA could actively seek to implement the goals of those surveys.

CURRENT BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PLAN: Chair Stevenson expressed his belief that we should keep in touch with Mayo to see what their expansion plans are. Chair Stevenson stated that a letter should be sent from the Mayor stating that we are here and are ready to talk when they are ready. The EDA discussed their finances and would like to send a letter to businesses just letting them know that we are here to help them if they would like to expand or upgrade. Martin will write a letter and send it to the EDA for approval before it is sent out. Sturgis suggested sending letters to in-home businesses to see if they are ready to expand. Martin stated that the U of M has a program Business Retention and Expansion and if the EDA is interested Martin would see if someone would come to talk to the EDA. Chair Stevenson would like to see a completion date for the business search plan and the business assistance plan. Wegner suggested that Martin draft both of these and send them out to the members before the next meeting.

INTERACTION WITH DMC IMPLEMENTERS: Chair Stevenson stated that we should be in contact with the movers and shakers involved with DMC and go to the DMC meetings to let them know that Kasson is interested. Martin informed the EDA that Journey to Growth is a combination of Rochester Chamber and Rochester Area Economic Development group, they are

in the implementation phase right now and are looking for members from Dodge County. Stevenson volunteered to go to these meetings.

DODGE COUNTY RACE TRACK: Martin received an email from Christopher Abts about running a handful of special races in Kasson this summer and has asked for community support. Stevenson suggested directing this person to the Chamber but thinks the EDA should recommend to the City Council that the City work with this person as far as water charges and noise ordinances. Stevenson suggested having this promoter try to get a performance bond to guarantee payment. Martin suggested sending this request to Tom Munson from the Dodge County EDA.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor Johnson stated that he contacted Mary Ehmke since her term was ended and she indicated that she was not interested in continuing. Wegner would like to have Martin draft a Thank you letter to Ehmke for her 12 years of service.

Martin stated that there were no financials this time. Wegner would like to see the payments and balances and the balance sheet. The 225 fund report will be quarterly.

Finance Director Zaworski stated the downtown lots that the City owns in the downtown redevelopment TIF, the legislature has extended the time for availability of these funds. The Assessments are from Advantage Equipment when their outstanding balance was assessed to their taxes.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Rappe, City Clerk