

KASSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

Tuesday, August 6th, 2019

12:00PM

MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Kasson Economic Development Authority (EDA) was held at City Hall this 6th day of August 2019 at 12:00PM.

The following board members were present: Dan Egger, Chris McKern, Tom Monson, and Janice Borgstrom-Durst.

Absent: Liza Larsen, Michael Peterson, and Richard Wegner.

The following staff members were present: Nicholas Ouellette, EDA Coordinator

- I. Call Meeting to Order. EDA President Dan Egger called the meeting to order at 12:00PM
- II. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting. McKern motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as submitted. Monson seconded.

Ayes (4), Nays (0). Motion carried.
- III. Quarterly Financial Report. The board had no concerns or questions regarding the quarterly financial report.
- IV. Coordinator Report.
 - a. Business Retention and Meetings. Ouellette informed the board he had distributed more than 60 copies Commercial Façade Improvement Applications with businesses in Kasson.
 - b. Downtown Lots Committee. Ouellette notified the board the committee will have their report prepared for the EDA board for the September meeting.
 - c. MNDOT Cooperative Landscaping Agreement. Ouellette notified the board that the City will start landscaping/tilling work in the next week. Once the ground is prepared, Sargents will install the plants and trees.
 - d. Kasson Konnections. Ouellette discussed emailing Chamber businesses details for the next Kasson Konnections meeting.
 - e. Small Cities Development Program Grant. Ouellette discussed how the City is exploring how it can transfer Federal MIF funds for use in the SCDP.
 - f. Dodge County Wind Transmission Line Proposed Routes. Ouellette notified the board of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Information Meeting on August 20th in Kasson.
 - g. Small Business Administration. Ouellette discussed the SBA presence at Kasson City Hall, and how they are organizing flood relief for small businesses and homeowners in Kasson.

V. 2020 EDA Budget. Ouellette discussed his phone call with DEED to explore the opportunity to reuse Federal MIF. Ouellette discussed the options to fund a Business Subsidy Fund. Monson asked Ouellette to explore whether Federal MIF could be gifted to another community development organization. McKern discussed the viability of each method to fund a Business Subsidy Fund. McKern supported keeping the budget the same as last year.

VI. Business Façade Improvement Program. Ouellette discussed the number of applications he has received. Ouellette noted two recent applications were for projects ineligible under the program guidelines, due to their beautification/landscaping nature which does not related to a commercial building façade. Ouellette asked the board if they would like to expand the scope of the Business Façade Improvement Program to include beautification/landscape projects.

Janice Borgstrom-Durst recused herself from voting on this agenda item, explaining that she had submitted a project proposal for the Business Façade Improvement Program.

Ouellette noted he could also improve the application to include details on contractors and better define eligible projects. McKern voiced his support to expand the scope of the program. Egler requested Ouellette update the program guidelines for the board to review at the next EDA meeting.

VII. Kasson Konnections Agenda. Ouellette repeated that he will be available for businesses at the Kasson Konnections meeting to discuss the Business Façade Improvement Program.

VIII. Other Business. Ouellette invited Carl Dombek to speak about the Small Business Administration's flood disaster relief efforts for Dodge County. Dombek discussed the SBA low-interest loans available to Dodge County residents and businesses. Cal Greening was invited to discuss the MN Housing Quick Start Disaster Recovery Program. Greening discussed how the program is unique to Minnesota and two other states. Greening noted the Quick Start program works when: homeowners have exhausted their insurance benefits; those individuals can apply for assistance from the SBA, and if affordability, credit, or qualification are an issue; those individuals can then request assistance from the MN Housing Quick Start Disaster Recovery Program administered through Semcac.

IX. Items for July EDA Meeting. Ouellette noted that Nancy Peterson would like to present to the EDA board at the September meeting. Egler noted that the business subsidy/loan program and the Commercial Façade Improvement Program will be on the next agenda.

X. Adjourn. McKern motioned to adjourn the meeting. Borgstrom-Durst seconded.

Ayes (4), Nays (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on September 3rd, 2019.

Minutes Submitted by: _____
Nicholas Ouellette, EDA Coordinator

Dan Egger, EDA President