

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted an EDA meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                          Member Wayne Skaff  
                          Member Jim Steffen  
                          Member Matt Look (left at 8:50 a.m.)

Members Absent:     Member John LeTourneau  
                          Member Kristine Williams  
                          Member David Elvig

Also Present:         Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator  
                          Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director  
                          Mike Mulrooney, Economic Development Consultant  
                          Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager (effective  
                          11/08/10)  
                          Colin McGlone, Councilmember

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Chairperson Riley suggested moving Case #3 (Staff Update) to Case #1 because original Case #1 (Review Shop QA-Web Based Application for Economic Development/Shop Local Initiatives) includes an on-line demo beginning at 8:00 a.m. The adjustment in case order will make better use of time.

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve the amended agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Steffen, and Look. Voting No: None. Absent: Members LeTourneau, Williams, and Elvig.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member Steffen, to approve September 9, 2010 minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Steffen, and Look. Voting No: None. Absent: Members LeTourneau, Williams, and Elvig.

## **EDA BUSINESS**

### **Case #1: STAFF UPDATE**

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the invitation to the fall EDA Business Networking event. The event, as previously determined by the EDA, will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2010, in the Alexander Ramsey Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center. Networking and breakfast will be served between 7:00 – 7:45 a.m., with a welcome from Mayor Bob Ramsey and EDA Chair Chris Riley at 7:45 a.m. The program, “Starting and Staying in Business – Tools for Your Success in Challenging Times,” will be presented by guest speaker, Dr. Charles Schaffer, at 8:00 a.m.

Economic Development Consultant Mulrooney stated that there is continued interest from the prospect for the Harbor Industries building. There are a few issues with the building (e.g. the in-floor heat is not conducive to the heavy equipment they would bring in; therefore, they would need to rip out the floor or put mats down). If they choose the site, they will be relocating employees from another location to Ramsey. The project would create approximately 300 new jobs.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson reminded the members of the EDA of the GMI open house from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson updated the members on the VA project. The date of the groundbreaking event continues to shift, however, it is anticipated that the event will take place in early November. A heavy political presence is expected. A reception will be hosted at The Fountains of Ramsey after the groundbreaking event.

### **Case #2: REVIEW SHOP QA-WEB BASED APPLICATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/SHOP LOCAL INITIATIVES**

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the staff report.

Discussion ensued regarding a web-based application called Shop QA, which was developed by Gov QA. Staff first learned of Shop QA while attending the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Conference, and now the city has been offered the opportunity to become a pilot city for this product. Gov QA is only offering three pilots per state - in Minnesota, the other pilot cities are Buffalo and Cottage Grove.

EDA members participated in an on-line demonstration of the product.

Further discussion led to additional questions, which will be researched by staff. The Shop QA topic will be brought back in December for further discussion.

### **Case #3: CONSIDER EDA RESTAURANT SUBSIDY POLICY**

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the staff report.

Chairperson Riley questioned whether or not the EDA could agree on a definition of a sit-down restaurant in order to establish a restaurant subsidy policy.

Discussion ensued regarding the different types of restaurants.

Member Steffen pointed out that the City of Champlin is paying 70% of SAC/WAC fees as part of their restaurant assistance fund. The City of Ramsey has always paid 100% of both fees when offering assistance. He questions whether we will be able to change our stance now.

Member Look added that it should be determined how many restaurants we want, and how many we want to subsidize.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson stated that these are all items that will be defined in the creation of a restaurant subsidy policy. Staff will write a draft policy and will bring it to the EDA meeting in December for further discussion.

#### **MEMBER INPUT**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Skaff, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Steffen, and Look. Voting No: None. Absent: Members LeTourneau, Williams, and Elvig.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Heidi Nelson  
Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director

ATTEST:

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Amy Dietl  
Deputy City Clerk