

**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, January 13, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Member John LeTourneau
 Member Wayne Skaff
 Member Jim Steffen
 Member Kristine Williams
 Member Jeff Wise

Members Absent: Member Colin McGlone

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
 Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator
 Dean Busch, IT Manager (for E-Gov demonstration)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Williams, Skaff, Steffen, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member McGlone.

APPROVE MINUTES

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, Steffen, LeTourneau, Williams, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member McGlone.

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1: APPOINT INTERIM CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated that member terms run from April 1st to March 31st, however, last year officers were appointed for the calendar year of 2010. To

coordinate member and officer terms an interim chairperson and vice chairperson should be appointed until March 31, 2011. At the April meeting officers will be appointed for a year term.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member LeTourneau, to appoint Member Riley as interim chairperson.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Members Skaff, LeTourneau, Steffen, Williams, and Wise. Voting No: None. Abstain: Chairperson Riley. Absent: Member McGlone.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams to appoint Member Skaff as interim vice chairperson.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Williams, Steffen, and Wise. Voting No: None. Abstain: Member Skaff. Absent: Member McGlone.

Case #2: MULTISOURCE MANUFACTURING CLOSING & RLF UPDATE

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report. He stated MS Holdings purchased the Harbor Industries building on December 29, 2010 and the lines of communication remain open even though the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Loan did not go forward at this time.

Chairperson Riley stated it has gone well, and has shown we are willing to work with them, we're happy they are here, but not going to give away the farm.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated it was not so much MS Holdings that didn't like the language in the document, but the bank. City Attorney Bill Goodrich took the language from the Small Business Administration loan documents. He continued it is unusual that a business has committed and acquired the facility and then not gone forward with a particular loan, usually they leverage and try to get all they can before committing. In this case the building price was attractive enough that they wanted to complete the deal. He continued that the City depends on repayment of the RLF loans to refund the account to continue to do future deals.

Member LeTourneau stated that the RLF guidelines state the subordination position we want to take and EDA needs to stay consistent with the guidelines. This case was our opportunity to review those guidelines.

Member Steffen asked when the building would be ready for them to move in.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated they are hoping by the end of March.

CASE #3 E-GOV LINK OFFERINGS & PRESENTATION

Peter Selden from E-Gov Link demonstrated their product for the EDA.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated this Ohio-based company provides information technology solutions for local governments. Its offerings include Citizen Request

Management, Permit, Community Calendar, Available Properties, Business Listings, Rumor Mill and other applications. This was informational only.

CASE #4 CONSIDER EDA RESTAURANT SUBSIDY POLICY

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report. He stated the highlights of the proposed restaurant subsidy, which are: The maximum loan amount for Water Access Charge (WAC) would be 70% for restaurants located in The COR, along Armstrong Boulevard, on State Highway 10, or along State Highway 47 in the City of Ramsey, and eligibility would be for-profit restaurants that are not currently operating in the designated areas. He continued with the application process and implementation procedures.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed restaurant subsidy policy.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman explained that WAC fees would be an inter-fund transfer; however, Sewer Access Charge (SAC) fees would be a payout from the City to the Met Council.

Members discussed whether the eligibility should remain in the key transportation corridors or be opened to the entire city.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that an option could be that wherever the zoning code would allow a restaurant the subsidy could be offered.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman mentioned as an alternative defining the eligibility as within a half mile of the corridor. The consensus of the Commissioners was to direct restaurants within a half mile along the designated corridors.

Members discussed the definition of a full service restaurant. The consensus was to define full service as restaurants where food is served at tables.

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member LeTourneau to adopt the Full-Service Restaurant Subsidy Program Guidelines as presented by Staff and further defining eligibility as within a half mile of the designated corridors and defining a full service restaurant as food is served at tables.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members Skaff, LeTourneau, Steffen, Williams, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member McGlone.

CASE #5 EDAM 2011 LEGISLATIVE POLICY

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report. He described EDAM's legislative policies and stated it would be beneficial for the EDA to formally support EDAM's 2011 Legislative Policy.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Steffen to draft a letter in support of EDAM's 2011 Legislative Policy.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Steffen, Skaff, Williams, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member McGlone.

CASE #6 STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff report.

Members reviewed and discussed the EDA 2011 Work Plan/Goals.

Member LeTourneau stated he would like to see the 167th Avenue node be moved to the top of the list.

Chairperson Riley stated he would like the EDA to renew their effort on obtaining a zip code for the City of Ramsey. He stated he thought it would do a lot for the City's identity.

Member Steffen stated he would like an update on the COR each month.

Member Wise stated QCTV will be starting to do a monthly update on the COR for the public.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman informed the EDA that the City was not selected for the TED grant. The City came in fourth place behind Bloomington Mall of America, City of Minneapolis, and City of St. Louis Park.

City Administrator Ulrich stated the City also applied for a Safety and Mobility (SAM) grant in conjunction with the TED grant and came in third, so there is hope that the City is queuing up for some major funding for the Armstrong Highway 10 interchange.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated there is a proposed street name change. It pertains to Sunfish Lake Business Park, specifically where Bunker Lake Blvd. meets Azurite and 143rd. City Council requested EDA's input. Members decided to bring this back to the February meeting to discuss this in more depth seeing how this impacts businesses in the area.

MEMBER INPUT

Chairperson Riley welcomed Member Wise to the EDA.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Steffen, Skaff, Williams, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member McGlone.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary