

**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, February 10, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Member John LeTourneau
 Member Colin McGlone
 Member Wayne Skaff
 Member Jim Steffen
 Member Jeff Wise

Members Absent: Member Kristine Williams

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
 Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director
 Tim Gladhill, Associate Planner
 Mike Mulrooney, Consultant
 Councilmember Randy Backous, arrived at 7:45 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Skaff, to approve December 9, 2010 minutes with the correction of the vote appointing interim chairperson as Chairperson Riley abstaining.

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1: CONSIDER STREET NAME CHANGE OF AZURITE STREET IN THE SUNFISH LAKE BUSINESS PARK

Associate Planner Gladhill presented the Staff report.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated from a business perspective, the City is sensitive to the change. It is not just the cost but the negative perception that clients could have with address changes.

Associate Planner Gladhill stated that the Fire Chief is available to help in anyway, including sending out letters of the address change from a public safety perspective.

Member Wise stated he would like documentation of the concern public safety staff has.

John, a representative from Wildlife Resources, stated that their address is on all their products and they ship to 6,400 commercial customers and have over 300 vendors. They receive letters from customers forwarded from their previous addresses of business regarding their product because the address is on all the products. It is important for the business to have communications with their customers. He stated the cost for an address change for their business would be close to \$50,000 and it is a problem.

Sandy, a representative from Cabinetry Concepts, stated that when they moved in, the emergency staff wanted the street name left the way it was. She stated that if business in 2010 would have been like 2009 they would have shut their door, and changing the address would not be good for sales and marketing.

Doug, a representative from MN Waterjet, stated their business is the newest business in the area and would have the same financial burdens as the other businesses. He continued that the problem might be that two signs don't have NW after the street name and one does; that is the only problem freight drivers have had delivering to their business.

Don, a representative from Diamond Graphics, appreciates that when this was brought to the City Council that they wanted to discuss it more. This address change would be the third for his business. He stated that they have had false alarms go off and public safety staff was there in minutes.

Chairperson Riley thanked the business representatives for attending the meeting.

Member Skaff stated that changing streets changes people's GPS systems.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Skaff to recommend staying with the current Azurite Street in the Sunfish Lake Business Park at this time.

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

Associate Planner Gladhill stated that the businesses will get notified when this item is brought before Public Works or City Council. He does not know the date, but has the mailing list used previously.

Member Wise asked about correcting the signage.

Associate Planner Gladhill stated that he would discuss that with the Public Works Director, but the City would want to stay consistent with the street sign policy.

Case #2: APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR THE RELEASE OF UNIMPROVED LAND, RELEASE OF LAND FROM AND AMENDMENT TO GROUND LEASE AND LEASE AGREEMENT FOR RAMSEY MUNICIPAL CENTER

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented the Staff Report.

Chairperson Riley asked if the EDA bonds did not cover the land.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson stated that EDA leases land from the City and the City leases the building from the EDA. The City approved a new plat for the area that separates the land for development purposes from the City owned land for the Ramsey Municipal Center and the Municipal Parking Facility. The re-plat certifies that it does not affect ingress or egress from the site or limit use of the building.

Chairperson Riley asked if City Staff and the bond attorneys are working together to make sure it is done correctly. Deputy Assistant Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson replied yes.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Steffen to approve the resolution for the release of unimproved land, release of land from and amendment to the ground lease agreement and approve the release of land from and amendment to the lease agreement for the Ramsey Municipal Center.

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

CASE #3 EDA 2011 WORK PLAN

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2011 EDA work plan.

Deputy Assistant Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson stated that what she has been hearing at conferences is that now is the time to get ready for when the market comes back; there will be a short window of opportunity, so it is necessary to get sites ready for development.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Steffen to approve the 2011 EDA work plan with the intent to prioritize the focus areas.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Members LeTourneau, Steffen, McGlone, Skaff, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Williams.
Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman will bring to the next meeting a preliminary prioritized work plan.

CASE #4 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE TINKLENBERG GROUP CONTRACT

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report.

Member McGlone stated that Council looked at this on a broader scale and took out pieces that they felt Staff was stronger in than the Tinklenberg Group or may not need at this time.

Motion by Member McGlone, seconded by Member Wise to approve EDA funding for the consulting services agreement with the Tinklenberg Group.

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

CASE #5 STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated there is a company in Minneapolis looking to relocate. He has had meetings with their senior management. If an existing building is not available they will look to build a new building with the first phase consisting of 100,000 square feet.

Consultant Mike Mulrooney stated this is a good example where a community (i.e. Minneapolis) neglected one of its existing employers. The jobs wages are fairly significant at \$21-\$22 an hour, plus benefits.

Members discussed possible available locations for this company. Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman will continue discussions with the company.

EDA directed Staff/City to facilitate the move as quickly as possible, to be helpful and not an impediment.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated Waltek is looking to expand in the future and move to a new location; he was alerted to the fact they were looking in Anoka. He has met with the CEO and will continue to work with the company to help them find a suitable location in Ramsey. Waltek's timeline is not as immediate as the Minneapolis company.

Mr. Mulrooney stated once the City finds Waltek a new home then the current property can be redeveloped.

Chairperson Riley stated it is good to see that the City is helping an existing business.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated the Business Expo will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the Fountains of Ramsey. This will put the Business Expo across the

street from the Environmental Expo and the exhibitors will all be in one location at the site. The cost is \$30 for Ramsey Businesses and \$45 for Non-Ramsey Businesses.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented an update on the COR.

Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Nelson presented an update on the re-organization of the Community Development Department.

MEMBER INPUT

Member LeTourneau stated that he was impressed with the State of the City presentation and it is great to see what the City of Ramsey has going on in preparation of a return from an economic downturn.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary