

**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, March 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 Kristine Williams
 Member Jeff Wise

Members Absent: Member Jim Steffen

Also Present: Aaron Backman, Economic Development/Marketing Manager
 Heidi Nelson, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:34 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, McGlone, Skaff, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Steffen.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Member Skaff, seconded by Member LeTourneau, to approve February 10, 2011 and February 24, 2011 minutes as presented.

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

EDA BUSINESS

Case #1: DISCUSS REVISED 2011 EDA WORK PLAN

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report.

Members discussed the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and Business Subsidy guidelines as they relate to restaurant subsidies. In the past the EDA has primarily worked with the manufacturing sector, however, not all business subsidies have to be based on the number of new employees making a livable wage; there is also the desire to bring a new business service to the community, and secondary benefits, such as the traffic generated by the project.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman will email members the RLF and Business Subsidy guidelines for their review prior to the April EDA meeting.

Motion by Member LeTourneau, seconded by Member Williams to approve the 2011 EDA Work Plan.

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

Case #2: STATUS OF FALLS CAFÉ/WELLS CATERING

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report that discussed the approval by the Ramsey City Council.

Wells Catering hopes to have the Falls Café opened by the end of June.

CASE #3 MINNEAPOLIS MANUFACTURING COMPANY DEVELOPMENTS

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented the Staff Report.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman stated meetings have been positive with senior management, the development team, and staff. This project could potentially replenish the Public Works Enterprise Fund, which would be accomplished with land sale proceeds and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman will be making a presentation regarding the project to Connexus Energy staff.

CASE #4 STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman presented an update on the Business Expo, EDA partnership with Anoka Area Chamber for the Anoka Area Chamber Map, his meeting with Representative Gunther as an EDAM representative and shared the example of Hutchinson Technology as why cities might want to consider diversification among retail, manufacturing and services.

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

Discussion ensued regarding access management on the county roads.

MEMBER INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/Marketing Manager

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary