

#### **4.03: Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce: Manufacture Cohort: 2020 Partnership Subscription Renewal**

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that he is honored to continue to reach out to the community to support manufacturing through Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Manufacture Cohort. He provided background information on the Manufacture Cohort and the work that has been done in the past few years including partnerships and collaboration with different groups, providing the example of the School District and changes that were made to the curriculum focused on manufacturing. He reviewed the work the Cohort focused on this year related to the COVID challenges including defining alternative workforce, openly exploring automation, investigating regional training, supporting COVID PPP applications, Minnesota Department of Labor dual training grants, regional automation assessment, and the “new normal”/what could be done to open up. He also reviewed employment statistics throughout Anoka County highlighting the importance of the manufacturing sector. He asked for continued support from the EDA/City of Ramsey.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that he continues to be impressed by the work this group does. He noted that he has attended a number of meetings and events and provided information on the career signing event that he has attended in the past. He stated that staff recommends continued support of the Anoka Area Chamber Manufacture Cohort with a contribution of \$5,000.

Member Cords stated that in the last session the decision was made to use EDA budgeted funds to support local restaurants and cover the cost of the liquor license renewal fees. He asked if the EDA has the available funds to cover this budget request of \$5,000.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that some funds have been moved around to cover the typical EDA expenses because of the contributions to the COVID program. He noted that some of the programs qualify for CARES Act funding, which will reduce the impact to the EDA budget. He noted that additional discussion will occur on the CARES Act funds later in today’s agenda.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill stated that the City is attempting to be reimbursed for the COVID business programs through the CARES Act. He noted that he will provide additional details in the next case.

Member Heineman asked if there is an untapped group of manufactures that could benefit from the Cohort.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that the number of jobs mentioned includes the opportunity within Anoka County. He confirmed that not all the businesses in Anoka County are a part of the Cohort but stated that all of the activity that the Cohort does, helps to support manufacturing as a whole throughout the County. He stated that the intent is to engage with as many businesses as they can and benefit the community.

Chairperson Steffen asked if the group has been meeting through Zoom meetings.

Mayor LeTourneau confirmed that the group has been meeting through Zoom and has a meeting later this morning that will include a cross section of manufacturers along with representatives from the Department of Labor and the School District. He stated that the discussion today will relate to COVID challenges and how to open businesses back up.

Member Hardin asked the number of communities in Anoka County that are providing funds in a similar manner to Ramsey.

Mayor LeTourneau replied that currently the cities of Anoka and Ramsey contribute funds along with Anoka County. He stated that the Cohort is able to focus on things relative to Anoka and Ramsey because of their contributions.

Motion by Member Burandt, seconded by Member Cords, to recommend to City Council to continue support of the Anoka Area Chamber Manufacture Cohort in 2020 including \$5,000 in funding.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Heineman	aye
Member Cords	aye
Member Burandt	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Kuzma	aye
Member Hardin	aye
Chairperson Steffen	aye

Motion carried.