

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

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson (Remote)
 Member Chelsee Howell
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member William MacLennan
 Member Jim Steffen (Remote)

Members Absent: Member Chris Riley

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member MacLennan, seconded by Member Steffen, to approve the agenda.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Howell	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member MacLennan	aye
Member Steffen	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye

Motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 10, 2022

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Johnson, to approve the February 10, 2022, minutes as presented.

Further discussion: Economic Development Manager Sullivan noted a change to the minutes in the name of the presenter to read, "...Hill Hilt..."

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Steffen aye
Member MacLennan aye
Member Johnson aye
Member Howell aye
Chairperson Olson aye

Motion carried.

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Recognition of Years of Service for EDA Commissioner Jim Steffen

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report recognizing Commissioner Steffen for his 20 years of service on the EDA.

Chairperson Olson read aloud the recognition to Member Steffen noting that he is the longest serving resident (non-elected official) on Ramsey Economic Development Authority.

Member Steffen expressed appreciation for the recognition. He recalled interviewing for the position and holding meetings at the old City Hall. He stated that he has worked with many different Mayors, Councilmembers, and members of City staff and has enjoyed his time growing the business community.

Chairperson Olson recognized that Member Steffen has seen and influenced a lot of change during that time.

Member MacLennan commented that Member Steffen has been a great member of the community and is an upstanding person.

Member Howell echoed the comments thus far and thanked Member Steffen for the time he has invested in serving the community.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that he has had the pleasure of serving with Member Steffen since he joined the EDA in 2002 He noted that it has been a pleasure to see the growth that has occurred since that time Member Steffen has served.

4.02: Update on Potential Tungsten Redevelopment Area Project

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Johnson asked if the City would acquire these locations to be demolished and whether there is a plan to relocate those businesses.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that it is yet to be determined if the acquisitions would be full or partial, noting that the County is the lead agency that would work with the businesses on those acquisitions. He stated that one business, Blue Line Collision, already has a purchase agreement to move to another location in Ramsey. He stated that the purpose of the case is to prepare for the scenario that, if these would be full acquisitions, it would ensure full reimbursement could occur.

Member MacLennan asked for clarification on why the City would be involved rather than Anoka County checking out the properties.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the details of acquisition are yet to be determined. He noted that the City has earmarked 4M of the project costs to contribute, some of which have been spent on plan preparation and design. He stated that there is a potential that the City could allocate the funds for right-of-way acquisition and would then become the owners of those properties if acquisitions are required. He noted that this action would clear the path for that scenario but again noted that full acquisition of any of these properties is not imminent and that Anoka County would handle negotiations.

Chairperson Olson asked if the business owners are fully aware of this process.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that Anoka County has been in contact with the business owners, as has City staff. He believed that all of these property owners are very much aware of this process.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Steffen, to direct staff to enter into a contract with LHB to conduct inspection services and obtain letters of findings and to recommend to City Council that the City of Ramsey consider concept of using available, required contribution funds for the Ramsey Gateway Project on land acquisition/demolition expenses.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Steffen	aye
Member MacLennan	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member Howell	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye

Motion carried.

4.03: Select 2022 Business of the Year

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Johnson commented that some of the businesses on the list have been in existence for many years. She referenced the school and asked if that would need recognition. She also asked for input on some of the businesses on the list that she was not familiar with.

Chairperson Olson stated that he is most familiar with PACT as that is where his children attended school but shared the question as to whether that should be on the business list.

Member Steffen commented that there are good options each year which make the decision difficult. He stated that he would select Plants and Things because it has been a fixture and landmark in Ramsey. He noted that if the business is likely going to close or relocate and they deserve recognition.

Motion by Member Steffen, seconded by Member Johnson, to select Plants and Things as the 2022 Ramsey EDA Business of the Year.

Further discussion: Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided additional background on some of the other businesses on the list as well as the newer additions to the list.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Steffen	aye
Member MacLennan	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member Howell	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye

Motion carried.

5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that Anoka County representatives will attend the next meeting to provide an update on the Highway 10 project as previously requested by the EDA. He provided an update on other development concepts being reviewed by staff and planning for upcoming activities.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Howell	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member MacLennan	aye
Member Steffen	aye

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Sullivan
Economic Development Manager

ATTEST:

Wendy Schlueter
Economic Development Administrative Assistant

Draft by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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