

**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, November 10, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member William MacLennan
 Member Chris Riley
 Member Shanna Stewart
 Member Scott Wiyninger

Members Absent: Member Chelsee Howell

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 Wiyninger, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members MacLennan, Wiyninger, Johnson, Riley, and Stewart. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Howell.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated October 13, 2022

Motion by Member MacLennan, seconded by Member Johnson, to approve the October 13, 2022, minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members MacLennan, Johnson, Riley, Stewart, and Wiyninger. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Howell.

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Approval of 2023 Business Network Meeting

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Stewart stated that she is familiar with Kitchen Table but was not familiar with Wells Catering, so she had to look up information on that company. She stated that company also looks great and therefore she would go with the more cost-efficient option of Wells Catering for the event.

Chairperson Olson commented that the Highway 10 topic was very popular last year and agreed that the content for this year looked great. He agreed that the more cost-effective option for catering should be chosen, with Wells Catering, noting that company does a great job for the other EDA event as well.

Member MacLennan commented that Wells Catering has been used in the past and does a great job. He commented that it is a basic breakfast and therefore the more cost-effective vendor should be chosen. He agreed that the agenda looks good and noted that the meeting is typically well attended. He also believed that the date seems to be a good choice.

Member Johnson asked if the past attendance has been at 100.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that attendance has ranged from 60 to 120, noting that the meeting was held virtually during COVID. He did anticipate 100 people for this event as more people are wanting to attend in person after COVID. He noted that if Kitchen Table is chosen, \$6,000 would need to be allocated for the budget, while \$3,500 would be allocated if Wells Catering is chosen. He noted that selecting Wells Catering would allow more wiggle room in the budget if more people attend and the budget could authorize up to \$4,000.

Member Wiyninger asked the typical audience for this meeting and what kind of marketing is done in preparation.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that typically there is a mix of the different sectors, perhaps more heavily attended by industrial businesses. He stated that there are business owners and CEOs. He stated that because this event is designed for businesses, the City does extend the invitation to every single business.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Stewart, to allocate \$4,000 for the 2023 Business Network Meeting and Lyndes/Wells Catering at the Fountains of Ramsey; approve the proposed agenda; and select Business Network Meeting date of January 31, 2023.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members Johnson, Stewart, MacLennan, Riley, and Wiyninger. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Howell.

5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE

5.01: Project Update

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that within the packet he provided development updates on various projects within Ramsey and welcomed any questions.

Member Johnson asked for input on the building being constructed in the Coborn's parking lot.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the building is being done by Northstar Marketplace, is speculative and has a drive-thru unit that would lend itself to some type of food service. He stated that there are not any tenants signed on as of yet and noted that he will provide an update once tenants sign on. He noted that Papa Murphy's and Anytime Fitness will be opening in the building constructed on the other side of Armstrong Blvd which will create more energy in that area.

Chairperson Olson stated that he has been getting questions on a grocery store and asked for an update.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that the City has entered into an LOI with a convenience grocer and although there were some delays, he anticipates that item will come forward to the EDA at an upcoming meeting.

Member Wyingner referenced the LOI section and asked if any of those projects are at risk.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided a brief update on the status of the different projects listed within that section.

Member MacLennan referenced the sports dome, noting that original ARAA was thinking of bringing in a partner and perhaps a restaurant. He asked if there was any progress on those potential partnerships.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that staff has met with the architects and at this time they are proposing a sports dome with two other buildings, which could still be a restaurant and/or orthopedics user. He noted that the association would like to submit a site plan in December which would lead to discuss at the Planning Commission in January. He stated that tied to that would be the Ferret Street and West Armstrong infrastructure study which should be completed by the end of November. He anticipated that the road project could occur in 2023 and noted that the Council will still need to discuss the different funding sources available for that project. He noted that ARAA is still planning on the dome being a 2023 project as well.

Member MacLennan asked if the City would have to purchase property for a stormwater pond.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan noted that there are two options for a stormwater pond. He stated that one option would use a larger pond that would require the building to be removed while the second would use a smaller pond and in that case the building would not need to be removed. He noted that property owners in that area are supportive of the project and would be willing to work with the City and sell property to the City that may be necessary to move forward with that project.

Member Johnson asked for an update on the development that was proposed near Casey's.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the EDA and City Council took action to cancel the purchase agreement for that parcel. He noted that the developer decided not to move forward at this time because of the impact of that intersection on Highway 10 being closed during construction. He also provided an update on a new staff member at Anoka County dedicated to Economic Development as well as an upcoming UPRIVER event on November 17th at which Ramsey will have a booth that he will staff.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members Wiyninger, Johnson, MacLennan, Riley, and Stewart. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Howell.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:01 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.