

**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 9, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson William MacLennan
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member Chelsee Howell
 Member Chris Riley
 Member Shanna Stewart
 Member Scott Wiyninger

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member Wiyninger, seconded by Member Stewart, to approve the agenda.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 9, 2023

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Wiyninger, to approve the February 9, 2023, minutes as presented.

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

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Consider First Amendment to Purchase Agreement and Right of Re-Entry Agreement for Part of Outlot C, Affinity at COR; Case of COR Trust Bank (Portions may be closed to public)

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Chairperson MacLennan asked if there is any indication that the applicant would not move forward.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the applicant has been great to work with and has expressed frustration with the slower timeline due to licensing requirements for his Project team members. He stated that the applicant is committed to the project but does require a drive-thru, noting that will need to be worked out through the Planning Commission and City Council. He explained that the property is within COR-1 which only allows one drive-thru, while the bordering COR-2 district allows two drive-thru lanes. He stated that a potential change in zoning is something that the Planning Commission will need to consider.

Member Johnson referenced the drive-thru and asked if the third drive-thru lane could be accommodated.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that staff would not be supportive of a third drive-thru lane. He stated that even allowing two drive-thru lanes would be a bit of line blurring.

Chairperson MacLennan asked for details on the road shown and whether that was part of a parking lot or West Ramsey Parkway.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided details on the alignment of West Ramsey Parkway.

Motion by Member Wyingner, seconded by Member Stewart, to recommend that the City Council approve First Amendment to Purchase Agreement and Right of Re-entry Agreement for Part of Outlot C, Affinity at COR as presented; subject to City Attorney review.

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

4.02: Consider Renewal of Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership (ACRED)

Economic Development Manager Sullivan introduced the Economic Development Director from Anoka County to provide an update on ACRED. He stated that the EDA is asked to consider renewal of the ACRED partnership, which would have a cost of \$1,626. He noted that is an increase of \$50 from the previous year. He noted the benefit that is provided through the membership which allows the City to post real estate listings on the MNCAR website which alone justifies the expenditure.

Gregory Frahm-Gilles, Anoka County Economic Development Director, introduced himself and explained how economic development also improves the well-being and quality of life for a community. He provided background information on the creation of ACRED and the work that he does with the different communities in Anoka County in order to focus on goals more regionally. He reviewed the ACRED goals and initiatives, details on the partnerships and committees, target industries, and opportunities and collaboration. He provided highlights from the activity of the last year and the continued focus on workforce. He recapped the events from the past six months and also noted upcoming events. He also provided details on grant programs Anoka County is offering to assist in making development sites shovel ready. He stated that he is currently working with the ACRED Executive Committee to help develop a plan for the next five years, noting that they will be reaching out to the cities for input. He also provided details on business support services provided by Anoka County as well as information on additional support programs and financing available for businesses.

Chairperson MacLennan thanked Mr. Frahm-Gilles for his presentation.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Wyingner, to recommend to the City Council participation in the Anoka County Economic Development Partnership (ACRED) and approval of the \$1,626 continued voluntary cost share to the partnership.

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

4.03: 2023 Business Appreciation Day Event Budget and Planning

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Riley commented that the method that has been used has been great and he believed that adding the additional elements will be great.

Member Johnson stated that she is excited about the best dressed team and best hole sponsor awards.

Member Wyingner stated that City staff do a great job on the event, and he looks forward to it.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Wyingner, to authorize an allocation of \$5,500 for the 2023 Business Appreciation Day Event on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at The Links at Northfork and to approve the proposed budget as presented.

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

5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided an update on recent development activity and interest. He noted that the organizational activities will occur at the April meeting and anticipated that a new member would be appointed prior to that meeting as well.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Wyingner, seconded by Member Stewart, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:25 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.