

**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, December 14, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Scott Wiyninger
 Member Chelsee Howell
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member Brittany Lindahl
 Member William MacLennan (arrived at 7:35 a.m.)
 Member Chris Riley
 Member Shanna Stewart

Members Absent: Member William MacLennan

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated October 12, 2023

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Lindahl, to approve the October 12, 2023, minutes as presented.

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

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.02: Consider EDA Funding for Replacement of Entrance Monument at TH #47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NW

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Johnson asked what the sign used to look like as she could not recall.

Member Riley commented that it was a smaller sign that was lit but did not match any of the other City signs. He noted that it did not stand out.

Member Johnson stated that there has not been a sign in that location for a few years and she had not noticed the previous sign. She asked if that would be the proper focal point and perhaps those funds would be better allocated in another location.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that he likes signage that is done right and looks good. He agreed that the previous sign did not stand out. He commented that the Public Works Committee and Parks put a lot of thought into this to ensure that it will look nice and stand out. He noted that other communities have this type of signage at key entry points into the community. He stated that location does have a lot of eyes on it and trusted that the design is something that will be seen and will be a landmark. He stated that he does support the sign and noted that there is a significant EDA fund balance that has not been touched for a number of years and would consider this to be a capital expense as there should not be much for ongoing maintenance costs. He believed that there would still be funds to do other things in the COR and this expenditure would not limit the ability to do other projects in the future.

Member Johnson stated that she does like the sign and was just questioning the location.

Member Lindahl commented that perception is exactly why the sign should be there to alert people to the break between Anoka and Ramsey. She stated that the COR is easily identified as Ramsey while that area may be confusing as to where Anoka and Ramsey split.

Chairperson Wyingner agreed that it will be helpful to extend the branding to that edge and put the Ramsey stamp there.

Member Riley stated that the City does have an existing location for the sign as well, which is helpful. He stated that they are limited as to what can be done in that location and this does follow the City sign guidelines to create cohesive branding throughout the community. He believed that this would be an appropriate use of fund balance as well. He commented that while the cost of signage is always a shock, this will be built right to last with little ongoing maintenance costs.

Member Johnson asked if only one bid was received.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that this falls under the threshold for bidding, but the City did make its best attempt to receive multiple quotes and therefore proceeding with the one quote would be acceptable.

Chairperson Wyingner referenced the options for funding before the EDA. He asked where the remaining funding would come from if the EDA were to only recommend funding half of the balance.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that would be to determined. He stated that initially the sign was fully funded through the EDA and therefore that could be done again.

Member Stewart commented that she could support 50 percent but would not want to fund more than that from the EDA. She stated that she would also like to see more quotes.

Chairperson Wyingner stated that he looks at the businesses that are there that have aligned their businesses with Ramsey and this would be a way to show that the EDA recognizes that and supports those businesses as well.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that both landowners for the multi-tenant spaces have recently reinvested into their properties to enhance that vision and therefore the sign would show commitment to area as well.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Howell, to allocate up to \$21,500 from the EDA Unencumbered Fund Balance for the construction of a monument sign at the NW corner of Highway 47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NW. (Note that the \$4,500 in insurance money already received would be allocated in addition to the \$21,500)

Further discussion: Member Stewart commented that she does not agree that this would be the best way to spend these funds in order to support these businesses. She asked why the funding would only come from one fund, rather than be split between the different funds. Economic Development Manager commented that this is not a budgeted expense and therefore these funds would come from the unencumbered fund balance and believed that within the budget the funds would most likely be coded as marketing but ultimate would be decided by the Finance Director.

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