



**Approved**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Minutes  
10.10.23**

**Absent:**  
**Guests:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Kyle Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance, Marie Rivers, Marlys Dunne, Jason Houle, Jeremy Dresel, and Dallas Fischer. Nancy Hoffman from the County EDA/HRA was present.

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA: October 10, 2023**

President Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

**3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: September 12, 2023**

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 12th minutes. Dunne stated the Center City EDA did contribute to the purchase of the docks. The September minutes will be amended. Commissioner Dunne made a motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections; Commissioner Rivers seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITIONS**

**5a. City Council Liaison Report**

Commissioner Rivers gave an update on the council meeting that was held September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Sewer Commission approved a disc golf course at their site. The Chisago Lakes Superintendent spoke to the council about the upcoming referendum and different programs at the school to get students interested in trades and manufacturing.

The Dutrirun representative attending the council to express concerns about the cancellation of the triathlon. The council told them they voted to end the triathlon and any new proposals should be brought forward to the Park Commission.

The December council meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

The council set a date for the hearing for taxes payable and the preliminary 2023 levy.

The council approved a tobacco license for Auroma Investments LLC, the Marathon gas station on the corner of Highway 8 and Lofton. Approved a zoning change to the driveway ordinance.

### **5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates**

Hoffman spoke about the manufacturing event that will be held at Split Rocks in Wyoming, there are four different school districts around the county participating. There will be eight manufacturers providing three different tours available to the students. A presentation with Luke Griner from the Minnesota Department of Economic Development will be held as well. The whole idea for this event is to get students to think about manufacturing as a career choice.

Dunne commented that the county board designated October as Manufacturing Month. There are about 89 manufacturers in the county, and they support about 2,400 jobs. The County also designated some of the ARPA federal funds 75k in funds were allocated to the EDA for childcare funding and grants. 25k to school programming like Kids Club. The county has also made a significant increase in the EDA budget.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7a. Monthly Financial Report.**

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report. Dunne asked about the special activities fund and if it was earmarked for anything.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Highway 8 Project**

Timeline is still looking for a 2024 start.

### **2. Downtown Street Project and Revitalization**

Project is complete.

### **3. Land Development Activity**

The farmed land has been cultivated and the lease should be paid.

Pechman had interest in a specific area of the site, they are looking for a contractor for building design, if everything works out, they are interested in a spring start next year.

**4. Business Retention Initiative and Visits**

Bright Beginnings Childcare is interested in a visit and will get something scheduled. The focus is on childcare visits since there are grants available.

Pechman stated that the land next to O'Reilly Auto has been purchased and planning is taking place for the new dollar store, there has been talk of a possible apartment complex and restaurant at the site as well.

**5. LEI Packaging**

Still on track, automatic payments are being made. May of 2024 the revolving fund will be replenished.

**9. NEW BUSINES**

**10. ADJOURN**

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Bodell  
Executive Assistant