



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
11.14.23**

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: November 14, 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: October 8, 2023.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 8th minutes. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Dresel 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 on October 24th. A bee keeping ordinance was amended and approved to allow bee keeping on smaller sized lots. An accessory structure variance was approved for a shed on Green Lake Ave.

The council approved the appointment of Nathan Stackhouse to the Park Commission. Offer of dedication for Green Lake Villas, LLC was accepted. This includes roads, water, sewers, and all public improvements. The council approved funds from water and sewer for additional payment for the sewer extension on Karmel Ave, and approved submittal for a grant for the Local Road Improvement Program.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Hoffman stated the county has been doing a lot of marketing with the Real Estate Journal. The County EDA/HRA put on a lenders breakfast for local lenders to hear about all the different programs they can use. A training course for small businesses called Empower Local was held to get ready for November's small business Saturday. The course was recorded if anyone is interested.

A training through SBA is being held tomorrow for Women's Certifications. Women owned business can be certified and then qualify for different programs that are available to the certified business.

The county is looking to update the housing study, the last one was done in 2018.

Hoffman commented on the other local EDA happenings, Lindstrom is meeting tomorrow for their annual business appreciation breakfast. Wyoming is completing a downtown study. Shafer EDA is meeting tonight, they are getting a dollar store, and looking at a possible Kwik Trip relocating to one of their gas stations that is closing.

Dunne presented some information and a flyer for a tax credit program, Housing for Minnesotans.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Highway 8 Project

Things are on track except for the Northern Long Ear Bats that have been found along the highway corridor, if the bat issue does not get resolved the project could be pushed from fall of 2025 to spring of 2026.

Dunne stated one of the 2024 county road projects would be reconstruction of County Road 19 (Stacy Trail) to County Road 14 (Lincoln Rd). This should include a roundabout at 19 and Lofton Ave.

2. Downtown Street Project and Revitalization

Project is completed. The third phase of the project would be Liberty Lane and Karmel Ave.

3. Land Development Activity

A business that is interested in the property would like the city to enter a letter of engagement or interest so they can do some business design. They would like a piece of the property that is long or rectangular. The issue would be storm water retention, water and sewer, and or a possible road. They are looking for 2 to 2.5 acres of the possible 16 that are available.

Another potential opportunity would be for Lakes Area Roofing, they have inquired about the old public works building. They potentially could be someone that would be interested. Pechman asked Associate Planner Nelson to reach out for a Business Retention visit.

4. Business Retention Initiative and Visits

There will be some follow-up for the daycare business, otherwise the list is down to gas stations and retail.

5. LEI Packaging

9. NEW BUSINES

9a. 2024 Goals/Updates

Commission discussed what goals and updates they would like to see on the 2024 agenda. The Highway 8 project, Land Development, and LEI will stay on the agenda. The commission will discuss other goals and updates at the December meeting.

10. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant