



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
12.12.23**

Absent: Dallas Fischer, Jason Houle
Guests: John and Colleen Santi, Nikki Battles

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: December 12, 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: November 14, 2023.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 14th minutes. Commissioner Dunne made a motion to approve the consent agenda; 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 city council meeting that was held on November 28th. The council approved the 2024 Triathlon permit application, Dutrirun made changes to the event that the park commission approved.

The 2024 liquor and tobacco renewals were granted. The council approved the certification of delinquent sewer and water bills and grass mowing fees to the county. The Solar Farm IUP was tabled and will be on the December meeting agenda due to lack of information.

The council agreed that the voting allocation funds stay with the county. Approved joining the 3M/Dupont PFAS lawsuit settlement class. There were

updates made to the personnel and credit card policies that were approved by the council. The council accepted a bid of \$11,500.00 for the 1991 Peterbilt Fire Truck and approved a request for payment on the downtown project.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Hoffman is presenting to the Real Estate Journal tomorrow on affordable housing. They will have a booth there and market Chisago County. The housing analysis will be updated this year, it has been six years since the last update. Developers like to have this information when considering this area. Enterprise Minnesota came to the county to talk about regional manufacturing. They do surveys throughout the year to report on what the manufacturers are saying, smaller companies are worried about the MN Safe and Sick time rollout.

Wyoming is finishing up their downtown study, Center City has some new restaurants, and the Go Boat Motel is in the finishing stages. Lindstrom is looking into possible areas for an industrial site.

Dunne added that the manufacturing presentation was what she expected and there is still a struggle with the labor force, inflationary prices, and supply chain issues. January 24th is the next Chisago County Collaborative Initiative meeting at 6pm.

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

Peterson spoke about keeping the public aware of the construction and the access to Chisago City and its businesses. Pechman said that the city will be aware of all information and work, commission will keep this as unfinished business for the 2024 agenda or until project completion.

2. Land Development Activity

The lease for the land was paid, and a check for \$1800.00 was received.

3. Business Retention Initiative and Visits

There were no new visits this month, the visits will continue next year. Dunne visited the new Scooters Coffee and was pleased to meet the owners; this is their second store. She also spoke with the new wine and spirits distributor located in the industrial park; she is open to some tours once she gets settled.

4. LEI Packaging

Payments are on track.

9. NEW BUSINES

9a. 2024 Goals/Updates

Commission agreed to keep Highway 8 project, the Land Development Activity, and Fund 51 Update for the 2024 goals/updates.

9b. Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Request

John Santi gave the EDA some background on the Wildcat Woods Disc Golf course that is underway at the CLJSC property. He is hoping to partner with the EDA and asking for a donation to the program, they are trying to fund \$16,000. This money will be used for baskets, tee pads, and parking lot upgrades. They have raised \$4000.00 of their goal from local businesses and are asking the EDA to match that amount. Dunne is impressed at how much work has been done already and the volunteers that are doing the work. She mentioned that the EDA does have special activity funds. Dresel would like to see the other communities contribute as well to this fund as it will benefit all the communities, not just Chisago City.

Dunne made a motion to donate a \$1000.00 guaranteed and up to \$2000.00 with matching other EDA's donations to the Wildcat Woods Disc Golf with the condition that the Chisago City EDA is acknowledged as a sponsor. Commissioner Rivers seconded; all ayes; the motion was approved.

9c. Industrial Expansion-Vision

Commissioners received a map of the land, there are two businesses interested in the parcels. They are waiting on the EDA before continuing their planning, they want insurance that the parcels will be sold to them. Peterson asked about the number of employees the business would have. One of the businesses is adding a secondary building to this site and would only have 2-3 employees. The other company will have an estimated 10-12 employees with peak times having more. Buildings would be approximately 25,000 square feet and 45,000 square feet. The DEED Grant is needed to complete the cul-de-sac. The grant would cover up to 50% of the cost of the project. Dunne asked about the purchase price and the amount that would need to be recouped for the land and the cul-de-sac. Commission discussed their concerns. Dresel hates to see the businesses turned away, there are two businesses that are interested and ready and the land is shovel ready. EDA will need a close session to discuss the price of the lots. Dunne looks at this as an opportunity and would like to support it.

9d. DEED Grant Application

Pechman showed the commission the application and discussed the risk, commission will have a closed session in January to discuss all the numbers.

9e. Entrance Sign Electrical

Pechman is trying to get with Conexus Energy for some pricing, he explained the quotes for the electrical work that needs to be done.

9f. Celebration of the Lakes Fireworks Request

Dunne said that a new fireworks provider is giving the chamber a discounted rate for the celebration this year. The show will cost \$4000.00 Dunne has reached out to all the EDA's and fire departments for donations. Dunne is asking for a \$500.00 donation to the fireworks show.

Commissioner Dresel made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Celebration of the Lakes Fireworks show; Commissioner Rivers seconded; all ayes; the motion was approved.

10. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant