



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
06.11.24**

Absent:
Guests: MaryJo Wiatrak, Dallas Fisher

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: June 11, 2024.

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: May14, 2024.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 14th minutes. 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

Rivers gave an update on the May 28th Council meeting. Council heard from the Lakes Center for Youth and Families representative Linda Madsen she presented the 2023 participation and demographic information from the annual report. John Chouinard, a resident of Pioneer Rd, addressed the council with concerns he has about the condition of Pioneer Rd and asked what improvements the city could make. Mike Siemsen submitted his letter of resignation to the Cable Commission. Council discussed the Highway 8 project and underpass at Jennifer Ct. with such a high price to construct the underpass and the maintenance required for the city the council felt the at grade crossings were acceptable for the project. Administrator Pechman's contract was renewed for an additional four-year term. Council also discussed the public safety funds for the joint police department, the city of Lindstrom did not want to split the funds 50/50 and wanted to contribute a lesser amount since they have a slightly lower

population than Chisago City. This funding was for hiring bonuses and retention of officers. Dresel stated everything has always been split 50/50 in the base contract, and everything has been shared. Having the shared police department has worked very well over the past 20 years. Commissioners discussed the pros of the joint department.

Commission discussed the Highway 8 underpass project and the decisions the council made and reasons the tunnel would not work for the city. Dresel stated that the tunnel would present a big spending risk as the council doesn't know what other expenses will come up during the project that the city would need to cover. If there was a guarantee that the tunnel would be covered completely by the state in the project, a different decision may have been made.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Hoffman has been busy with applications, she had 3 housing trust fund applications, 2 for workforce housing in Lindstrom and Wyoming. The other one was for an existing housing complex in North Branch that would like to rehab. There is a developer looking at tax credits for a senior development near the hospital in Wyoming and a possible joint ownership with the County EDA. A North Branch business has turned in an application for a forgivable loan, and last month LEI's loan application was approved.

Dunne attended the AMC District 5 Regional meeting where there was a lot of discussion on cannabis, they did recommend counties setting the distribution cap. Phase one of the weir update was done and the county found out the weirs are fixable and do not need to be replaced. Funding to complete the repairs is now being investigated. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony last Friday for the mountain bike trails. The land accusation was approved to link the Swedish Immigrant Trail from Center City to Shafer.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report. Dunne asked about the engineering fees. The plating money does come out of the reserve, so the engineering fees are part of that.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2024 Goals & Updates

1. Highway 8 Project

Planning commission had their first public hearing for the Apartments preliminary plat. The proposal went very well, the developer has been easy to work with. Pechman showed the commission the illustration of the proposed apartment complex, it will include three buildings with three levels, there will

be 121 units and 60 garage spaces. The project will be completed in two phases and is expected to start in October of this year.

2. Land Development Activity

The architect for King Kind will be submitting the design review for approval at the July 11th Planning Commission meeting. The purchase agreement was sent to them. There are a few construction items they are working on with Justin Colberg, the building official at the county.

Pechman has not heard much from LEI in the last three weeks. Hoffman stated that they have applied and received a grant from the MN pollution control for their equipment and its recycling ability, it was a \$250,000 grant.

3. Fund 51 Update

EDA's portion was paid in May.

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