

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

November 25, 2013

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Menk called the meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 8:01 A.M.

Present were Commissioners Ed Menk, Terry Johnson and Jerry Sinner. Also present were City Administrator Goble, City Engineer Hulsether, City Planner Ostgarden, Council Member Cumberland, Ms. Sheila Haverkamp from BLAEDC and Mr. Chris Robinson from BLAEDC.

Because there was not a quorum present at 8:05 A.M. the Chair allowed for informational discussion. He recognized Mr. Don Hickman from the Initiative Foundation. He also recognized Mr. Kevin Close of Close-Converse who stated that business development in the industrial park has picked up nicely in the last couple years and that a couple prospects are brewing.

Commissioner Hastings arrived at 8:14 A.M.

Approval/Amendment of Agenda – Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND SINNER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Approval/Amendment of Minutes – Corrected and Approved

City Administrator Goble stated that on page 2 of the January 14, 2013 minutes the last sentence of the section regarding Industrial Park Marketing Update should read “at their December 17, 2013 meeting” rather than 2012.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND SINNER, DULY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE JANUARY 14, 2013 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.

Approval of Financial Report – Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND HASTINGS, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED.

Brainerd Lakes Economic development Corporation – Update – Informational

The Chair recognized Mr. Chris Robinson who reported that:

- Although the recent Wausau purchase did not go through, BLAEDC continues to work with potential purchasers.
- A definite uptake in business activity has been occurring, including the opening of the healthcare equipment and parts store, Ocelco, in the Industrial Park and job openings throughout the area.
- The EXECS program now has a “Rent a Board” initiative where a target group will work with a company in an advisory role for expansion.
- Crow Wing Recycling was recently reported in the Brainerd Dispatch as a “shining star” growing business for driving economic development in the area.

2014 Budget – Approved

City Administrator Goble discussed the budget and answered questions of the Commissioners.

The funding requests from BLAEDC, Initiative Foundation and GMNP were included in the Packet.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND HASTINGS, DULY CARRIED, TO RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FROM BLAEDC FOR 2014 FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,500.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND HASTINGS, DULY CARRIED, TO RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FROM THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION FOR 2014 FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND SINER, DULY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE 2014 EDA BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

Staff Reports

City Administrator Goble reported that:

- 6 responses to the City Attorney RFP have been received and staff expects to fill the position by January 1, 2014.
- She plans to retire at the beginning of February, 2014 and that the search for a new City Administrator is under way.
- A video tour of Brainerd is now on the City's website along with the City's Strategic Plan.
- A Secretary for the EDA needs to be appointed; the Commission appointed Commissioner Terry Johnson.

City Planner Ostgarden stated that the required amount of funds for the Mississippi River Projects is nearly met. He also addressed the 9% unemployment rate currently being reported for Brainerd; stating that he plans to research how the numbers are reached based on what he feels are incongruences he's recently seen reported.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:09 A.M.

Terry M. Johnson
Secretary