

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 9, 2014

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Menk called the meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 8:05 A.M.

Present were Commissioners Ed Menk, Jerry Sinner, Wayne Erickson and Council Liaison Bevans. Also present were City Administrator Wussow, Finance Director Hillman, City Engineer Hulsether, City Planner Ostgarden, Council Member Parks, HRA Director Bergman and Ms. Sheila Haverkamp and Mr. Chris Robinson from BLAEDC.

Approval/Amendment of Agenda – Approved

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

Approval of Minutes – Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BEVANS AND ERICKSON, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 30, 2014 EDA MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Approval of Financial Report – Approved

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

Brainerd HRA – Acquisition of 507 South 6th Street – Downtown Motel – Referred by Brainerd City Council at their May 19, 2014 Meeting – No Action Taken

The Chair recognized Ms. Jennifer Bergman, Executive Director of the Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), who reported that the HRA had been asked by the Council to review the \$75,000 sale offer from the owner of the “Downtown Motel” property at 507 S. 6th Street. She stated that after extensive review of the proposal, the HRA has determined that based on the size of the property as well as its history of various issues, the purchase is not recommended. Further, demolition of the property to eliminate blight would be costly. She stated that she continues to explore options for the property and that the HRA has requested her to inquire of both the EDA and Council to see if they would be interested in sharing costs for demolition, which in total would be approximately \$101,000.

The Chair recognized Ms. Sheila Haverkamp of BLAEDC, who discussed funds available for economic development; #298 (Downtown Fund) and #209 (Housing Fund) as well as other funding options.

City Administrator Wussow reported that he will continue to work with Ms. Haverkamp and Finance Director Hillman on options for the property.

The Commission determined not to make any recommendation at this time.

Public Hearing regarding BTD Wood Powder Coating, Inc. – Recommend Extension of the Job Creation Deadline to March 31, 2015 to the City Council for a Public Hearing to be held at their June 16, 2014 Meeting – Approved

The Chair recognized Mr. Chris Robinson of BLAEDC, who reported that Mr. Craig Martin, CEO of BTD Wood Powder Coating, was unable to attend the meeting this morning. He went on to report on behalf of BTD that the original agreement through the MIF Funding grant had been reached according to employees hired; however, a drop in business in the final quarter had not allowed for them to retain all of the employees. With business picking up again, BTD is requesting a 12-month extension of the job-creation goal deadline to March 31, 2015.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BEVANS AND ERICKSON, DULY CARRIED, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF A 1-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE MIF GRANT JOB CREATION GOAL DEADLINE AS REQUESTED BY BTD WOOD POWDER COATING, INC., EXTENDING THE DEADLINE TO MARCH 31, 2015.

Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation – Update

The Chair recognized Ms. Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC, who reported that business is picking up in the area and discussed the success of the Rent-A-Board program.

Staff Reports

City Administrator Wussow reported that he and Commissioner Menk had been discussing the role of EDA including the possibility of meeting more often.

Commissioners' Comments/Questions

The Commission requested an updated list of current loans with the City as well as a guideline for EDA responsibilities and rights and determined that early morning non-formal meetings would be a good idea.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:43 A.M.

(EDA Secretary)